



Comics with true artistry

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Hike Beijing's green peaks

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Innovation leading development at Expo

By Yu Shanshan

This model displays the latest nettop designed in Taiwan as part of ASUS's Eee-series at the 12th International High Tech Expo, which ends Sunday.

The expo, with its theme of Technological Innovation Leading Development, exhibits China's independent innovations of the last 60 years, as well as the achievements and development potential of its provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

The five professional exhibitions show consumer electronics and information technology, a

recycling economy, energy conservation and emission reduction exhibition, among other advances.

Foreign enterprises like Nokia Electronics, GE and ABB will exhibit the full range of their latest projects; 2,000 domestic enterprises, including Lenovo and Changhong, will demonstrate their latest scientific and technological innovations to which they own intellectual property rights.

Other highlights include the China Financial Summit Forum and the China Energy Strategy High-Level Forum, which discuss highlights of national economic and technical development, mainly regarding how to cope with the interna-

tional financial crisis, expand domestic demand and boost development.

Fifty-one governments and scientific, technological, economic and trade institutions from 24 countries and regions are participating.

As many as 20 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the central government are trying to attract investment, exchange and cooperation agreements at the expo.

High-tech Expo Daily, the official newspaper edited by Beijing Today from May 20-24, is distributed at all Expo venues.

CFP Photo

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Beijing confirms second case of A/H1N1 flu

Another person tested positive for the A/H1N1 influenza in Beijing, the municipal health bureau said Wednesday.

This is the second confirmed case in Beijing and the fifth on the mainland.

The patient was a 21-year-old Chinese-Canadian who studied at a college in Toronto, according to a health bureau publicity official surnamed Sun.

Sun refused to disclose the patient's name, saying he was no longer a Chinese national and his family hasn't agreed.

The man arrived in Beijing in the afternoon of May 16 aboard a direct Air Canada flight from Toronto.

His parents picked him up from the airport and he remained at home for most of the time, Sun said.

The patient developed a fever and cough Tuesday morning and went to the General Hospital of the Armed Police Forces at 6:30 pm.

He was transferred to the Beijing Ditan Hospital Wednesday noon, where he tested positive for A/H1N1 flu and was

quarantined.

China reported four cases on the mainland – in Sichuan, Shandong, Beijing and Guangdong – with the first two patients having been discharged.

The third patient, the first confirmed in Beijing, was an 18-year-old woman surnamed Liu who had returned from the US. She was confirmed to have the flu Saturday, but was described as in "stable condition."

The patient in Guangdong, surnamed Yang, is also recovering, said Yin Zhibiao, vice pres-

ident with the No. 8 People's Hospital, where Yang has been treated since Friday.

"Yang asked me to do him a favor," he said. "He doesn't want the media to pry into his personal information, which he believes had already had a bad influence on his family."

The world's total number of lab-confirmed A/H1N1 flu cases has risen to 10,243, with 80 deaths, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in an update Wednesday.

(Xinhua)

First sex theme park demolished before opening in Chongqing



Workers dismantle a sculpture of a giant pair of legs wearing a red thong.

CFP Photo

By Han Manman

The country's first sex theme park in Chongqing, which featured explicit exhibits of genitalia and sex culture, was demolished last weekend after officials deemed it a "bad influence."

The park's interior, as described by bloggers, included "a giant revolving model of a woman's legs and lower torso, clad only in an unflattering crimson thong, (and) an oversized replica of a set of genitals, naked human sculptures."

"The investigation determined the park's content was vulgar and

that it was neither healthy nor educational. It had an evil influence on society and had to be torn down immediately," a spokesman for the Chongqing government said. Owners of the attraction were "interested only in profiting from sensationalism," he said.

The government notice came after a preview opening. The park, christened "Love Land" by its owners and scheduled to open in October, drew criticism from across the country when photographs of its interior hit the Web.

Some thought sex was best left

behind closed doors, while others argued the country had a real need for sex education. The general protest forced bulldozers to roar into the construction site.

Demolition began Sunday morning on orders from the municipal authorities.

Park manager Lu Xiaoping said they planned to display naked human sculptures, giant models of genitals, sex technique "workshops" and photography exhibitions about the history of sex. The displays would have included lessons on safe sex and the proper use of condoms.

He said the idea to set up the park was inspired by South Korea's popular sex theme park in Jeju.

"Sex is a taboo subject in China, but people really need to have more access to information about it," he said.

"Sex is a matter of privacy. It is not for publicity," said Xia Xueluan, a sociology professor at Beijing University.

Sex expert Shen Yinhe said that while Chinese society was opening up, it has a long way to go. "For the censors, sex is a sensitive thing," Shen said.

Citizen starts legal service to prevent repeat tragedy

By Chen Zao

A Beijinger who was burned by the legal system is on a quest to become a lawyer and offer "private counseling services" to help others avoid his fate.

Xu Jikun, 31, a lawyer from Aosheng Angel Public Relations, didn't expect to find a future in law. He started a company with his friends in 2003. However the company met big troubles as none of them had knowledge of law, and finally the company was closed.

"I always looked back and thought that if I had access to a lawyer or legal adviser, the results may have been different," Xu said.

Xu's private services will be billed at 365 yuan a year and will only accept small contract cases which do not need to go to the courts: the services most lawyers will not accept due to low profitability.

In one case, the father-in-law of a client thought he could purchase cheap housing and handed over 130,000 to the seller without any of the letters or certification required in a real estate transaction. Peniless, the family turned to Xu for help. Xu cooperated with the police and filed the necessary papers that helped officials to arrest the seller only a few days later.

Xu said one of his greatest worries is that most people do not understand the need for legal counsel, and instead simply accept their troubles.

The state of private lawyers is much like that of insurance companies years ago. Few people would purchase insurance because they assumed what they were being insured for would "never happen to them." If litigants today want to file a claim, the price is too high and the paperwork too complicated to start legal action without a lawyer.

"If potential litigants come to us for counsel, it can actually be an effective way to avoid unnecessary problems," Xu said. "Most people think a lawyer means you have to go to court and waste money." He compared his work to that of a consultant who gives authoritative advice, or the way people turn to a dictionary to clarify a word.

Carnival-goers walk for fun, not medals

By Huang Daohen

Not all competitions are a rush for medals. As many as 10,000 residents walked for fun at the Beijing International Long Distance Walk Carnival in Fangshan District last weekend.

The walk route was 16 kilometers and all the participants followed a set path along the mountain road.

Unlike the furious competition that weighs on every athlete at the Olympic Games, the event

was exactly what it sounds like: a non-competitive gathering of people interested in participation.

"There are no prizes, standings or medals to vie for. The only challenge is finding out what you

can do it, and how much further you can go," Liu Yang, from the organizing committee, said.

The carnival, organized by China Communist Youth League Beijing Committee and the People's Government of Fangshan

District, is an annual event and welcomed by the participants. "The activity provides participants a chance to view the nice scenery while walking with friends and families," Xiao Rui, a local resident, said.

The brains of addicts are mapped with EEG neuro-imaging machines.

CFP Photo



By Han Manman

China is home to more Internet users than any other country, but many of those users are spending what psychologists say too many hours logged on.

To combat what is seen as a "social ill," the country has opened many centers promising to cure teens and young adults of their addiction. But one center in Shandong was recently revealed to be using electroshock to treat its young patients. The news has started a new round of questions about how these new centers are regulated.

Yang Yongxin, head of the center, has become a lightning rod for this criticism. The young patients call him a "devil," and his colleagues say his methods are totally improper for such young patients. But Yang enjoys the support of the parents, who believe he will save their "unsaveable" children.

With no laws governing the addiction centers and no monitoring network to oversee what goes on behind their walls, Yang's addiction clinic continues to jolt the brains of its young patients.



Electroshock for net addicts

Inhumane or last resort for cyber generation?

Yang Yongxin

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Terrors of "Room 13"

In Room 13, Yang Yongxin uses touches the two electric notes to a girl's temples. This is her punishment for refusing to converse with her therapist and for refusing treatment.

"Are you feeling sick?" Yang asks directly.

"No, I don't have internet addiction, let me go home," the girl says.

Yang again jolts the girls temples. She shakes violently for a second, then shouts defiantly, "Not sick!"

The nodes touch her head again for a stronger jolt, after which she shouts, "I'm feeling sick! Really sick!"

"That's because you have an Internet addiction," Yang says calmly. "What's your name?"

"I don't want to tell you. Let me home!" the girl shouts.

A fourth shock comes to her temples, and she cries.

"Doctor, I was wrong," says, and cooperates with Yang to accept treatment.

This is a daily occurrence in Room 13 of Yang's Shandong-based China Internet Addiction Curing Center. The "patients," most of whom are younger than age 20, are forcibly committed by their immediate family.

All patients are sent to Room 13 for their "initial check up," which always involves electroshock.

"Room 13 was a nightmare for me," one boy patient writes in his blog.

Shocked into agreement

At age 46, Yang Yongxin has been working in the psychiatric field for 20. He claims to have cured 3,000 people since opening the Internet addiction center in 2006.

“Many blame Yang for using inhumane treatment, but myself and the other parents all believe this is the only way to save our children.”

Yang says the center has 50 therapy options for both addicts and their parents, whose presence Yang insists on during the process.

He says 90 percent of his patients recover through electroshock, whose brief-pulse current Yang says is safe. Medication promises, at most, a 50 percent cure rate at other treatment centers, which is why Yang prefer to use it in combination with electroshock.

Yang says he is sad to see media criticism of his methods.

"I view what I do as a holy crusade. I invested considerable effort and gave up much to treat these people, but all I get is misunderstanding and blame," Yang says.



Despite criticism, parents support Yang for "curing" 90 percent of their children.

Photos provided by Yang Yongxin

He says mild electroshock sessions are not dangerous.

"One day, the people who oppose me will understand," Yang says. Parents who send their children to the center are just hoping the children can be cured and restored to "normal" children, who attend school and avoid fights and crime.

Parents strongest supporters

While the media would crucify him, Yang enjoys the total support of his patient's parents.

The center is peaking at 160 patients, most of whom are aged 13 to 20. Their parents have formed a "parents committee" to ensure their children are cured.

“There is no place in the world that electroshock is used to treat addiction. Even heroin addicts are not given electroshock.”

"Many blame Yang for using inhumane treatment, but myself and the other parents all believe this is the only way to save our children," Xu says.

"Compared with being on mind altering drugs for three months, electroshock is a safe and effective way to make my son calm and obedient," she says. Her 18-year-old son was treated at the center with electroshock.

She says Yang is the only option for

herself and other parents, and their their opponents don't know what the children were like before being sent to the center. "I saw some parents whose faces were bloody and bruised when the dragged in their children," she says, "They were always beaten by their children."

Xu says Yang also provides them with training classes. He says improper family education is the root of many of these problems, so parents must learn and correct where they went wrong.

"I was placing too high of expectations on my son and gave him too much pressure. He was looking for an escape, and the Internet became his shelter," she says.

Electric shock never be allowed

Tao Ran, who set up the first Internet addiction clinic at Beijing's Military General Hospital, is firmly opposed to Yang's electroshock treatment.

Any new medical instrument must be approved by the Ministry of Health, but Yang is using the electroshock equipment for unapproved purposes.

He says the World Health Organization regulates electroshock equipment and methods, and it is only approved for cases of severe mental illness where all medication has failed.

"There is no place in the world that electroshock is used to treat addiction.

When couples turn to surrogacy, who protects the mother?

Baby assembly line

The Chinese word for "surrogacy Web site," *dai yun wang*, returns nearly a hundred sites offering surrogacy services. These sites directly name themselves as surrogacy providers and post advertisements to recruit educated women as surrogate mothers for 100,000 yuan.

On some Web sites, a grading system is used to determine how much to pay applicant mothers. Grades go from A to H based on education level, with A being the least expensive. A plain-looking woman with a junior high school diploma may be a grade A applicant: she would be paid 30,000 to 40,000 yuan. Only grade H applicants can earn 100,000 yuan or more, but they must be attractive and have a bachelor's degree or higher.

But even at grade A, the payment is considerable for many in society's poorest classes, as much as 10 times their annual salary. All fees, including physical check-ups and boarding, are borne by the party requesting a surrogate mother.

Huang Juan is a single mother with a daughter. Before applying to be a surrogate mother, Huang worked as a shop assistant at a department store in Yancheng, Jiangsu Province. To cover her daughter's future tuition fees, she did not hesitate to contact a local surrogacy Web site when she heard about the program. In 2007, the Web agency put her in contact with a Shenzhen couple. The physical examination showed Huang was healthy, and the three parties signed a contract to confirm Huang was selected as a surrogate mother. A fertilized embryo was implanted in Huang's womb.

According to the payment plan, the money would be paid out in stages. Huang received 20,000 yuan every two months throughout her pregnancy. All living costs during her pregnancy were covered, and she was provided a flat by the couple. The final payment would come after the baby passed a paternity test.

Huang earned 100,000 yuan, enough to pay for her own child's future education.

From implantation through carrying, delivery and weaning, the surrogacy process lasts 10 months. During the period, the Web site earns money by billing the couple that requested a surrogate mother with information fees and agency fees of about 20,000 yuan.

Seller's market

Infertility rates are skyrocketing. According to a survey by the Ministry of Health, 15 to 20 percent of the 230 million couples in their reproductive age are infertile. Put another way, more than 10 million families are childless.

Old traditions die hard, and the need "to carry on the family line" is still important even to modern couples.

More than half of the infertile people are women. Some lost their uterus due to disease, but others who have a healthy reproductive system cannot bring their child to term due to kidney failure. Test-tube babies are not an option, since the law only allows them to be implanted into the real mother's womb. Surrogacy is the last option for many families.

"My husband and I have been married for 10 years. We love each other and do not want to divorce over having no child," said Kathy, a middle-aged woman who had many miscarriages. She was inspired when she heard about surrogate options. "It's a lifeline for couples like us, and it brings us some hope," she

By Zheng Lu

Once upon a time, surrogacy was something never discussed. It was considered unethical or too sensitive.

But that was in the past. Today, surrogacy has fixed price rates on many Web sites, and is described as a "half-open" transaction. But that doesn't mean the moral or legal problems have vanished.



For the mothers who cannot bear a child on their own, finding a surrogate mother is the last hope. CFP Photo

said. She turned to a local surrogacy web site in Nanjing. Kathy said she would have recruited a mother on her own, but she could not find a hospital willing to implant an egg in the mother.

Most surrogate mother services have connections with private hospitals. Since the Ministry of Health passed its Management Measures of Human Auxiliary Reproduction in 2001, all medical institutions are prohibited from performing surrogacy operations.

Many of the Web site operators are former hospital personnel. The customer pays 30,000 to 40,000 yuan to the surro-

gacy agency, who will then pay its contact in the hospital to perform the operation.

Surrogacy agencies have been lurking on the Internet since 2004, but today there are far more agencies than in the past, and they have grown into a big business.

Shame and face

The law does not recognize the legitimacy of these surrogacy Web sites, meaning neither the rights of the mother nor the couple are protected. The contract used by one agency clearly spells out the mother's and the couple's responsibilities, but there is no mention of the agency's duty. A final clause says that

all conflicts are the responsibility of the mother and the couple.

Delivery is the weakest link in the process. Both parties face the risks inherent in all pregnancies, like loss of consciousness and bleeding, or in extreme cases: death. The mortality rate of Chinese pregnancies last year was 30 for every 100,000 births. That contract says that in the case of death, the couple will pay 100,000 yuan as compensation to the mother's family.

Miscarriage and deformity are other risks, and it is hard to say with whom the fault of these lies. If the surrogate mother did not take care of herself or broke the terms of her contract, then she must return a large percentage of the money. Even if there is nothing physically wrong, surrogate mothers risk the couple abandoning its child.

"The father only saw the baby for a few seconds, then he slipped away and never came back," said a surrogate mother who refused to give her name. The father was from Guangdong Province, where families still demand boys. When the wife said the baby was a girl, he left her with the surrogate mother and paid nothing. The surrogate mother was left with the child to worry about their future. "I haven't married yet, and I haven't told my family about the child," she said she was very regretful, and had no idea what to tell the child when he grows up.

Other cases involve ethics. How can a mother, after carrying a baby to term, abandon it after birth?

Huang Juan cried when the Shenzhen couple took their child. "I felt lost, although I knew the baby was not my child," Huang said. She said she would not do the job again, because she made enough money for her daughter's education. The surrogacy experience left her with a feeling of loss. The contract forbid Huang and the couple to contact each other, though she wishes she could see the boy in 20 years. "I just want to know what he will be like, how tall he will be and if he will become well-educated," Huang said.

Still a grey area

"We cannot say for sure that our agency is legal, but it is definitely not illegal," Gu Fushen, administrator of Angel Baby Surrogacy.com, said.

An official at the Network Administration Bureau of the Public Security Ministry said they take down illegal Web sites: those dedicated to pornography, gambling and overthrowing the government. The Web sites of surrogacy agencies fall into none of the above categories.

"No law clearly states that surrogate mothering is prohibited," said Zhong Ping, professor of the Law School of South-Central University for Nationalities. Gu cited the Management Measures of Human Auxiliary Reproduction Technology, issued eight years ago, as the most recent law.

But the Ministry of Health banned medical institutions nationwide from performing surrogacy operations. These management measures are only applicable to the hospitals institutions and their staffs, but carry no legal weight.

Li Benfu, chairman of the ethics branch of the Chinese Medical Association, said surrogacy will eventually be legitimized. It is already allowed in the UK and 15 states of the US. Li said current lack of regulations may make it hard to resolve legal conflicts during the procedure. "If the rate of infertility continues to rise, the demand for surrogacy is sure to rise with it," he said.



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Country to develop long-term climate change plan



Greenpeace activists hold up a sign supporting the Kyoto protocol in Beijing. CFP Photos

(Reuters) — China is drafting a long-term plan for climate change that will focus on raising energy efficiency, developing clean-coal technology and expanding carbon-absorbing forests, a top climate-policy official said.

Xie Zhenhua, a deputy chief of the National Development and Reform Commission who steers climate change policy, said the plan would strengthen China's "capacity to enforce international covenants."

"The goal of the national plan is to strive for a double-win of both responding to climate change and also developing the economy," Xie said in the interview with Xinhua news agency, which was published in the official People's Daily on Wednesday.

A global UN conference in Copenhagen in December is aiming to agree on a new pact spelling out nations' responsibilities to contain the greenhouse gases from fuels, industry, farming and land clearance that scientists say are dangerously heating the atmosphere.

As the world's biggest emitter of these gases, China faces pressure to begin cutting them soon. But Beijing says it and other

developing countries should not be forced to accept mandatory emissions caps to solve a problem caused by wealthy countries over the centuries.

The long-term plan and other energy proposals could be part of Beijing's case to the world that it is serious about combating climate change — without needing to take on mandatory caps as part of a new global pact.

"China's steps against climate change will not slow because of the global financial crisis," Xie said. "China's determination to deal with climate change will not falter."

Xie did not disclose any proposed numbers for energy saving or greenhouse gas emissions goals. Nor did he say when the plan would be released or what years it would cover.

China produces about 80 percent of its electricity from coal-fired power stations.

The plan would extend government efforts to raise energy efficiency and curtail emissions, promote renewable energy and clean-coal power and "vigorously expand carbon capture through tree planting and afforestation," Xie said.

Backgrounder

Stance on climate talks firm

China will remain firm in its call for developed nations to cut emissions and for other nations to receive funding as the world attempts to formulate a post-Kyoto deal on climate change.

In 2007, a national leading group on climate change, headed by Premier Wen Jiabao, was set up to oversee the issues related to climate change.

In the same year, the Chinese government issued the National Climate Change Program, the first of its kind issued by a developing country, which worked out the strategies and measures to tackle climate change.

China's "green" determination has been boosted by the country's achievements in its environmental initiatives. Figures show China's energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped 4.59 percent in 2008, and 10.08 percent from 2006 to 2008.

The government has said it would avoid promising a cut in greenhouse gases during the 2013-2020 period. Instead, China will consider setting a goal to improve energy efficiency by 2020, which decreases greenhouse gas emission, a source close to Li's commission said.

China is in the process of cutting energy consumption by 4 percent per unit of GDP every year between 2006 and 2010.

Expert Climate change will hit China hard

Hundreds of millions of Chinese people are likely to face extreme climate change in the next few decades if nothing is done about the climate change, John Beddington, the UK's chief scientific adviser told a recent seminar, attended by dozens of leading climate scientists based in South China.

Beddington, engaged in global climate research for decades, was concerned about the impact of global warming on the world, especially China.

"China will be hit hard by climate change, as temperature is predicted to rise above the global average," Beddington said.

"The worst effects may be avoided by keeping the global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius."

A rise higher than 2 degrees increases the risk of a decline in global food production and is likely to have a major impact on water resources.

An additional 1 to 2 billion people, many in China, would be faced with water shortages, partly due to loss of mountain glaciers and the water they provide when melted in summer, he said.

According to his study, temperatures in China could rise by about 2 degrees above

pre-industrial levels by 2050, and 4 degrees or more by the end of the century.

The impact of climate change was evident in the blizzards and flood in China last year, and the frequent droughts in Guangdong Province, he added.

Beddington said he was seeking cooperation with environmental protection institutes in China to fight global warming.

"The UK is very mature in clean power technologies, such as marine power and wind power," Beddington said, hoping enterprises in South China could do the same.

(Agencies)

US national zoo's giant panda not pregnant

(Washington Post) — You can put away the panda bunting and stow the "butter stick" comparisons for at least another year. The National Zoo in Washington DC announced Wednesday that its female giant panda, Mei Xiang, is not pregnant.

The panda, for the third year in a row, experienced a false pregnancy, the zoo said.

Zoo scientists had been keeping for several weeks what has become an annual pregnancy vigil for Mei Xiang, monitoring her hormone levels and behavior, and conducting ultrasound tests to see if she was pregnant.

On April 20, her level of urinary progesterone, a hormone associated with pregnancy, began to decline. Upon reaching baseline levels, this decline would end in either the birth of a cub — about the size of a stick of butter — or the end of a false pregnancy.

Late Wednesday, with the hormones at baseline and no fetus visible on the ultrasound exams, zoo researchers determined that Mei Xiang was not pregnant.

Giant pandas, native to China, are endangered. There are only about 1,600 in the wild and slightly more than 200 in captivity. And in captivity, panda reproduction has been problematic.

The 250-pound Mei Xiang was artificially inseminated at the National Zoo January 17 with sperm from the zoo's adult male panda, Tian Tian. The insemination happened early in the year because Mei Xiang went into heat three months earlier than usual.

And as in previous years, over the succeeding months, Mei Xiang began exhibiting some prenatal behaviors.

But zoo officials urged caution, noting that panda pregnancies, like those in all bears, are notoriously difficult to predict.

After ovulating, a panda almost always undergoes changes associated with a pregnancy in case she conceives, zoo experts said.

Popular singer detained over drug use

Man Wenjun, a Chinese pop singer, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of drug use, the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau said.

He was detained at a local bar early Tuesday morning, the Beijing Times reported.

Man was reportedly holding a birthday party for his wife at a bar near the Worker's Stadium with his friends, when police suddenly broke into their private room and apprehended all those present. Police say they were tipped off by an informant.

Preliminary results show that most of those arrested tested positive for a banned substance, including Man and his wife. The bar, named Coco Banana, was ordered to shut down Tuesday night, pending further notice.

(Agencies)

Yuan may be reserve currency by 2020

In the latest advertisement of the country's currency ambitions, an official suggested on Wednesday that the yuan could make up more than 3 percent of global foreign exchange reserves by 2020.

The yuan is not convertible for purely financial purposes, ruling it out as a reserve currency for now, but China has started to carve out a bigger international role for its money.

A pilot scheme will start soon in Hong Kong to use the yuan to settle trade with selected companies in southern Guangdong Province; the government has signed yuan swap deals totaling 650 bil-

lion yuan (US \$95 billion) since December with six central banks; and on Tuesday two foreign banks said they won permission to float yuan bonds in Hong Kong.

Zhang Guangping, vice head of the Shanghai branch of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, acknowledged that a series of conditions would have to be met for the yuan internationalization trend to gather momentum.

The government would have to gradually make the yuan convertible on the capital account; it needed a more liquid foreign exchange market; its bond mar-

kets and banking system needed to be more developed; and there had to be proper monitoring of cross-border capital flows, Zhang told a foreign exchange conference.

But, hypothetically, he said there was no reason why the yuan could not account for over three percent of global reserves by 2020, the target date for Shanghai to have evolved into an international financial center.

That would mean the yuan displacing the Japanese yen as the fourth-largest currency in reserve portfolios, behind the British pound, the euro and the US dollar.

Zhang told reporters his target was plausible, given the rapid growth of China's economy and outbound investment and its share of world trade.

"We have the conditions to reach such a proportion," he said.

In late March, central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan signaled an intent to play a greater role on the global currency stage by proposing that the dollar be eventually replaced as the dominant reserve currency by a beefed-up version of the Special Drawing Right, the International Monetary Fund's unit of account. (Agencies)

3G network up, but no users

By Jin Zhu

China Unicom, the second biggest mobile carrier, launched its high-speed, third-generation (3G) trials Sunday, World Telecommunications Day. Its move signals the start of China's 3G era; rivals China Telecom and China Mobile have also launched their 3G networks.

Users of the new network can have faster wireless data downloads and the ability to make video calls and watch TV programs on their phones. The network covers 55 cities and will expand to 284 by the end of September, China Unicom said.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued 3G licenses to the top three mobile operators on January 7. China Unicom will operate on Europe's WCDMA, China Mobile will use the domestically-developed TD-SCDMA and China Telecom will use the US-developed CDMA2000.

All three carriers have announced investment plans for their networks. The ministry expected the three operators to invest 170 billion yuan in 3G

network construction to boost the telecom industry.

According to statistics from the ministry, the country had 600 million cell phone users at the end of last July. Since the launch of 3G services, the user count grew to 670 million by the start of April.

The relatively high price of 3G services may keep many customers away. According to an online survey on Sina.com, although 59 percent of the 363,000 respondents want to use a 3G phone, half said the prices charged by the three telecom carriers were too high.

"The mobile Internet is a newly developing industry. People are still used to and satisfied with the current voice and text messaging services, which were 2G era technology. It's hard to push 3G in such a short period," Chen Jinqiao, deputy chief engineer from the China Academy of Telecommunication Research, said.

It will take time to cultivate a mature 3G market. Chen said he expects it to be five years before the technology is prevalent.



Chinese phone users have been waiting for 3G service. CFP Photo

McDonald's expands 24-hour delivery service

By Huang Daohen

McDonald's, the fast food restaurant giant, expanded its 24-hour delivery service to six more cities in China. The move comes after a one-year trial in Shanghai to attract more customers and offset losses caused by the economic downturn.

McDelivery, which offers 24-hour delivery services, is now available in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Wuhan, Nanjing and Tianjin. "The company promised that each delivery will be completed within 30 minutes with no minimum order," Kenneth Chan, CEO of McDonald's China, said. Each McDelivery carries a service charge of 7 yuan.

The company also plans to launch delivery service in second and third-tier cities across the country, Chan said.

McDonald's launched McDe-



McDonald's expanded its 24-hour delivery service to Beijing.

livery service in Shanghai one year ago and it was a "great success and brought benefit to a wide variety of customers who can't get away for lunch," Chan said.

"The Shanghai trial indicates that delivery service will become yet another powerful driver in

our long-term development strategy," he said.

When asked about the specifics, Chan said the first-quarter sales figure was within the expected range but declined to give details.

In addition to offering service in Chinese and Cantonese, McDon-

ald's said it will also offer English-language services for McDelivery, enabling non-Chinese speakers to take advantage of the service.

The financial crisis has dealt a bigger blow to China's fast food market than other regions', as fast food is viewed as a luxury by local consumers, especially those in smaller cities.

When asked if there was any signal of recovery in China sales for the first quarter, Chan refused to elaborate. "The figure is within our expectation given the economic recession," he said.

During the first quarter, McDonald's global sales revenue grew by 4.3 percent from a year earlier. The markets for Asia, Middle East and Africa cumulatively grew by 5.5 percent year-on-year. The growth figure for the China market was in the double digits before 2008.

Baidu holds talks with its striking workers

Executives at Baidu, the country's leading Internet search company, talked last weekend with striking workers who say they are angry over salary cuts and new sales commission policies that they believe are designed to force them out of their jobs.

Hundreds of Baidu employees either stayed home or went to the office and refused to work since May 4.

The action was exposed last Friday, when several hundred employees of the Shenzhen office marched on their local labor bureau to file a complaint against the company, according to strikers and officials in the labor bureau. In the nearby city of Guangzhou, the labor bureau said it had received complaints from "scores" of employees.

Baidu executives declined to comment. Several striking workers said Baidu cut the base salaries of sales agents by 30 percent on May 1.

(Agencies)

US drug maker draws up 1 bln yuan plan

By Venus Lee

US healthcare company Baxter International announced last weekend that it would spend 1 billion yuan this year to bump production capacity in China. Baxter's would be the biggest investment by a foreign drug maker in the country.

The US drug maker will use the funds to produce more intravenous solutions and peritoneal dialysis products at its Guangzhou, Suzhou, Tianjin and Shanghai plants.

"The investment reinforces our commitment to China," Paul Vibert, general manager of Baxter China, said. "It will also allow us to provide a significant number of jobs, which is in line with our corporate social responsibility," Vibert said. The investment is expected to create 2,500 jobs, of which 1,000 will be available this year, the manager said.

Baxter, the maker of intravenous drug pumps, renal and other products, had sales revenue of US \$200 million from China last year. Vibert said the company is still confident it can achieve double-digit sales growth this year despite the economic downturn.

The company's new products are bound for three first-class tertiary hospitals. However, domestic drug makers are worried about Baxter's move. "It will further squeeze domestic companies and will aggravate the foreign drug makers' monopoly of high-end medicine," Wu Jun, chief of a domestic transfusion system company, said.

The government announced it would invest 850 billion yuan this year to overhaul the health care system over the next three years, with a focus on rural areas. The measure provides huge opportunities for low and mid-end transfusion companies, "but it will also result in a new round of competition between domestic and overseas drug companies," said Li Xin, president of Double Crane Pharmaceutical.

For love of drama and humanitarian work



Isy Chautemps (middle) in local TV drama *Jin'an*.

Photo provided by Chautemps

North Korean taekwondo team wows local audience

By Yang Yue

Five-time North Korean taekwondo champion Kim Il Chel felt dejected after making a wrong move during a demonstration at the Beijing Shichahai Sports School last Saturday.

"It was a small mistake. I shouldn't have missed the wood brick," Kim, a senior college student majoring in Taekwondo, said. "Although it happens often, it meant a lot to me this time, because it was for the people of two countries ... This tour has extended to us the highest diplomatic welcome. It was a shame that I made a fault during the performance," he said.

But the audience seemed satisfied with his moves; he received thunderous applause from people who filled the three-storey sporting arena. Days before the demonstration, Chinese organizers actually worried the event would attract few spectators because of lack of publicity.

Kim is in China for the first time, along with his country's national taekwondo team, to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between his home

country and China. The two governments have set this year as "North Korea-China Friendship Year."

Kim, who has already made seven international tours, spent three months in rigorous training at the world's largest taekwondo stadium in Pyongyang. His studies temporarily had to take a back seat to the trip.

"They are the most disciplined sports team I've ever seen in our school. And they never waste any food," said Shichahai Sports School's cook, who has prepared meals for thousands of international athletes, including Olympic champions.

Taekwondo is the most popular sport in North Korea; martial arts lessons are even part of the elementary school curriculum. "Almost everyone from DPRK knows Taekwondo. If you don't know it, it may stand in the way of your school graduation,"

Huang Ming Chel, the Korean team's interpreter, said, adding that there are nearly 300 gyms in North Korea that citizens can use for free.

The taekwondo team held another demonstration on Monday, then flew back to Pyongyang yesterday.



The North Korean taekwondo team's demonstration attracts many Chinese fans.

Photo by Yang Yue

By Zhang Dongya

The director of an amateur theater group gave up her day job for a year to stage *L'Atelier* (The Workshop), which last week raised as much as 130,000 yuan for a Chinese children's charity.

Isy Chautemps, The Theater of Lanterns's director, said the French drama was "worth continuing," and that the troupe already had a new project lined up next year.

Chautemps, a native of France, is the only professional in the group. She came to China in 2004, appeared on several local TV dramas, then joined the Theater of Lanterns last year. Members look to her guidance and inspiration.

Since last April, she and 10 other troupe members have met in a French kindergarten in Sanlitun for rehearsals every week. *L'Atelier*, a classic by French contemporary playwright Jean-Claude Grumberg, was their fourth play. The story is set after World War II and talks about

the aftermath of the Holocaust.

L'Atelier ran at the Chaoyang Culture Center's TNT Theater for four days and was viewed by about 800 people. Besides members of the French community, Chinese students studying French also came to see the show. All Theater of Lanterns plays are in French, with Chinese translation displayed on a marquee.

"It was a success to make 130,000 yuan," said Charlotte Caillez, president of The Children of Madaifu, recipient organization of proceeds from *L'Atelier*. "We really appreciate the troupe's contributions and their support of the association for the past four years," she said.

So far, the theater group has raised around 330,000 yuan for the charity, founded in 1999 to support orphans and abandoned children from rural parts of Hubei, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces.

Chautemps had to give up her acting job during the year

of Opreparations; she has not appeared on any TV dramas during that time. To date, she has been on seven local TV soaps, including the latest hit *Renjian Qingyuan*, in which she played one of the heroines.

"Being an actress in China is a completely different experience from that in my country. For one, the work pace here is very fast, and I seldom have time to think things over. For another, I can only act as a foreigner, sometimes French, but most of the time, American," Chautemps said.

After doing one and a half years of Chinese language studies, she has had no big problems communicating with local production staff, which has made work smoother.

Chautemps married a Chinese national in 2006, and has since decided to make China her home. She said her theater group will continue to present quality drama on stage while supporting humanitarian projects.

Highly rated BBC TV drama reincarnated as ballet



Highly regarded playwright Dennis Potter's 1978 BBC television drama has been adapted into a ballet.

Photo provided by Milky Way Arts and Communications Company

By He Jiamwei

During the Great Depression in Chicago, sheet music salesman Arthur Parker has a hard time selling his products to music store owners. But in one store, Parker, a married man, meets schoolteacher Eileen Everson and falls in love with her in *Pen-nies From Heaven*.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday evening, Ashley Page will present her ballet version of this popular 1978 BBC serial drama at the Mei Lanfang Grand Theater.

Page, artistic director of The Scottish Ballet, showcases a playful interpretation of a range of popular songs from the 1930s, including "March Winds and April Showers" and "Painting the Clouds with Sunshine." Mei Lanfang's stage will be steeped in the era's vintage glamour through the magic wand of designer Antony McDonald,

who won the Golden Triga 2003 Prague at Quadrenale.

Page adapted Potter's work into ballet not just because of its popularity in Britain, but also because of Potter's artistic vision. "His television dramas mixed fantasy and reality, the personal and the social. He was particularly fond of using themes and images from popular culture," Page said.

Although Potter died in 1994 of cancer of the pancreas and liver, he was always optimistic toward life. "With sardonic humor, when he found out about his disease, he named his cancer 'Rupert,' after Rupert Murdoch, who represented so much of what he found despicable about British mass media," Page said.

Page first saw the TV drama as a girl and was captivated by the lead actor mouthing the bitersweet music of 1930s bands. "I bought the cassette and it was

with me for a long time," she said.

In the ballet version, there is no scheming, adulterous sheet music salesman; it is a much simpler, sweet and ideal story.

"It's dance entertainment set to wonderful songs from the 1930s," Page said, "I've been aware since I came to the Scottish Ballet that we need some 'end' pieces. We do plenty of challenging work, but we needed something different to end our mixed programs, something to send people home with a lighter heart."

In its first year of broadcast, playwright Dennis Potter's *Pen-nies in Heaven* won the British Academy Television Award for Most Original Program. In 2000, in a poll of industry professionals conducted by the British Film Institute to find The 100 Greatest British Television Programs of the 20th century, the drama landed the 21st spot.

UN marks AIDS memorial in 798 Art District

By Venus Lee

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held an AIDS memorial side-by-side with an art exhibit launched at the 798 Art District last Sunday.

Several HIV/AIDS patients together with representatives from the government, UN agencies and supporting institutions, lit candles to mark the 26th International Candlelight Memorial for HIV/AIDS Sufferers, which aimed to inspire and promote understanding of the epidemic among people infected with it.

Some HIV sufferers shared how they were infected with the virus, and their experiences with discrimination, at the Positive Talks program, sponsored by UNDP, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Marie Stopes International China (MSIC), a non-profit family planning, sexual and reproductive health care organization. The speakers also called on society to better understand HIV/AIDS, and provide better care for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

Zhang Jun, who discovered he had HIV/AIDS seven years ago, quit his job to avoid discrimination in the workplace. He wants to go public about the disease, but feels reservation because of



Subinay Nandy lighting the candle for the memorial.

Photo by Venus Lee

enduring prejudice.

"Most of the time, discrimination is not expressed in words; but you can feel it. For example, when people know I'm HIV positive, they don't want to talk with me anymore. I feel isolated and lonely. I'm afraid to speak out (about the disease) because I eagerly want equality and dignity just like any person," Zhang said.

By the end of 2008, it was estimated that in China 700,000 people were living with HIV/AIDS, or 0.05 percent of the population. "The AIDS situation in the country is very serious, but

most people are indifferent to it. Furthermore, the introverted traditional culture has made AIDS a concealed social problem," Subinay Nandy, country director of UNDP China, said.

Despite progress in recent years, there remains an urgent need to strengthen the general population's knowledge and understanding of HIV, because many Chinese people still think that only drug addicts, sex workers and men who have homosexual intercourse can be infected, said Liu Liqing, chief representative of MSIC.

"This has resulted in a lack of awareness of how easily HIV/AIDS can spread, and results in social stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS," Liu said.

"As long as HIV/AIDS is prevalent in China and the rest of the world, it is not the issue of a single country or individual. HIV/AIDS is a challenge for all humans and a threat to the entire world. Life is equal, everyone should enjoy equal respect and the right to pursue a better quality of life," she said.

The 19 Games – AIDS. Art. Life contemporary art exhibition, which will run until June 14, was part of the AIDS memorial activities. During the exhibit, a series of themed activities will be held, which will give the public a chance to interact with artists and PLWHA. The exhibition will also travel to other cities, curator Zhang Bin said.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, a program of the Global Health Council, is one of the oldest and largest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV/AIDS awareness in the world. Established in 1983, the memorial takes place every third Sunday in May and is led by a coalition of some 1,200 community organizations in 115 countries that raise social consciousness about the disease.



The Red-eared slider threatens the Chinese eco-system.

Photo provided by WWF China

Scientists warn against danger of foreign turtle species

By Zheng Lu

Scientists on Thursday warned the public against buying a foreign species of turtles that can wipe out local species and spread salmonella.

"Alien species should be kept out, because the chain reaction they trigger can be harmful to our ecosystem," Shi Haitao, deputy director of the Amphibian Reptile Branch of the China Zoological Society, said at an amphibian and reptile breeding and protection seminar. An "alien attack" is internationally considered a public nuisance, and China has become one of the countries most susceptible to it.

Among the most dangerous turtle species is the red-eared slider originally from the US. It has been listed among the 100 Most Dangerous Invasive Species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

But it is also the most common, most popular and cheapest turtle in the domestic aquarium market – factors that have contributed to its further spread. Scientists' preliminary studies reveal that it has gradually invaded all types of bodies of water in the country.

Shi said the red-eared slider's predatory abilities surpass those of local species, thus slowly killing off the latter by depriving them of food. The slider is also a carrier of salmonella, bacteria that cause food poisoning, gastrointestinal inflammation, typhoid fever or blood poisoning, which can infect humans.

"As it has already entered the country, it is nearly impossible to eliminate the species," Shi said. To prevent its further spread, he advised the public to stop buying red-eared sliders as a pet or just the red-eared slider.

"Alien species such as give them upscripta has not only threatened people's health but has also impaired diversity in species, which has led to an imbalance in the ecosystem," said Fan Zhiyong, project director of the Species Program of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) China's, the seminar's co-organizer.

The WWF, along with the scientists, also appealed to the government for help in curbing the red-eared slider's destructive effects.

The seminar was part of the EU-China Biodiversity Program, which kicked off in Beijing this week, to inform the public of the urgency of protecting the country's varied ecosystems and wild species. A series of activities, including film screenings, exhibitions and debates, will take place until the end of the week.

Photo exhibit spotlights Amazonian culture, environment



Brazilian First Lady, Marisa Leticia Lula da Silva (middle), attending the exhibit's opening ceremony.

CFP Photo

By Han Manman

A photo exhibition marking the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Brazil opened in Beijing Monday.

The exhibition, called *Guardians of the Forest*, features 24 photographs of the Amazonian indigenous peoples.

The photos present a culture existing in a beautiful yet perilous natural environment. It also touches on effective management of natural resources in present times.

Rodrigo Petrella, a well-known photographer from Sao Paulo, has made trips into the Amazon rainforest since 2003,

and spent an entire year in the jungle. He said the harmony between man and nature found in the area could serve as an example for the rest of the world.

The exhibit's launch was among the events to mark Brazilian president Lula da Silva's three-day visit to China beginning Monday.

Talks between da Silva and top Chinese leaders will center on the current economic crisis, the environment, as well as the growing relationship between the two countries. Da Silva will also participate in a major business forum and attend the unveiling of the Brazilian Studies Center at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Garage sale helps color lives of child minorities, orphans

By Annie Wei

Two children's charities, Couleurs de Chine and Children of Madaifu, held a successful first garage sale at the Belgian Embassy last Saturday.

"Roughly 400 parents and children came, and around 40,000 yuan was raised," Brigitte Janssens, a member of Couleurs de Chine (Colors of China), said, adding that they have another charity event lined up in September: an annual tennis tournament, at the Western Academy of Beijing in Shunyi.

Couleurs is a non-profit organization founded in 1990 to provide formal education to poor girls from the Miao, Dong and Yao minority groups in Guangxi and Guizhou provinces. The organization sponsors the primary

and secondary education of these children, and supports the building and maintenance of local schools and dormitories.

Since its establishment almost 20 years ago, Couleurs has sent 5,000 minority children to school, and constructed 27 village schools and dormitories.

The group also works to protect the cultural identities of the groups, and enhance cross-cultural exchanges between people from different cultures.

Couleurs is the brainchild of Francoise Grenot-Wang, a Frenchwoman who worked with Doctors Without Borders in the Miao region. She fell in love with the Miao people and their culture while living among them. In honor of this bond, she decided to raise funds to send their girls

to school, and to help them preserve their cultural identity.

Grenot-Wang recently passed away when a fire broke out in her wooden house, The House of the Minorities. At the time, she had been sharing her life with the Miao people for 10 years.

Children of Madaifu is another organization that serves Chinese children. Founded in 1999, it currently supports 80 orphans and abandoned children from rural parts of Hubei, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. It was born of the concept, "orphanage without walls," in which a parentless child finds a new home in his or her village.

In the countryside, when a child loses his or her parents, he or she is often taken in by grandparents or an uncle. But it is very hard for

these people, mostly farmers who make about 140 yuan a month, to provide food and shelter to another person. By providing financial aid, Children of Madaifu enables a child to stay with his or her relatives in their hometown.

Two-thirds of the association's funds go directly to the families, since there is no external "orphanage" to support. The other major expense is the cost of sending the local manager on his rounds.

Right now, Children of Madaifu is also developing programs to improve the children's lives and their education. It hopes to award scholarships for vocational or university education; build dormitories in mountainous regions; provide heating and medical facilities in schools; and sponsor sporting and cultural events.

International school holds 'green' fun fair



By Chiaoyu Tuan

Students, teachers and parents of the Beijing City International School (BCIS) celebrating on May 9 the school's fourth annual fun fair, Spring in the City. The event features games designed by students, music played by rock bands and raffle prizes. All proceeds from the "Green Fair," which aims to raise environmental awareness, will go to related projects.

Photo provided by BCIS

New association created to promote Italian wine

By Annie Wei

Nine wine manufacturers have teamed up under the Italia Wine Alliance (IWA) to promote some of the best Italian wines in China, which is quickly growing to become the world's biggest market.

IWA, which opened its China office this week, aims to provide training and greater knowledge about Italian wine to both consumers and people working in the restaurant, hotel and media industries.

In 2008, Italy became China's third largest wine exporter. But

Italian wines' local distribution channels have been limited – to mostly Italian restaurants.

Although Italian wine has many distributors in the country, wine-related information is not easily accessible to domestic consumers.

Last December, manufacturers from seven of Italy's best known wine regions – Piemonte, Veneto, Friuli, Toscana, Puglia, Sicilia and Sardinia – decided to form IWA, which is partly funded by the Italian government and the EU. IWA differs from other consortiums in its cross-regional

makeup and national scope.

The group plans to promote its products through events like wine tastings and workshops for restaurant staff, distributors and consumers, said Zhao Fan, IWA's chief China representative and wine writer, one of the three local staff in its office.

Zhao said IWA's establishment has attracted the attention of local distributors; orders worth five ocean containers were placed even before the consortium's official launch.

IWA has just released *Italia Wine Guide* in Chinese,

which provides practical yet detailed information about Italy's best wines. The consortium has also asked Chinese wine expert Li Demei, a winemaker and professor at the China Agricultural University, to create a primer introducing other Italian wines.

The consortium's president is Marilena Barber, owner of Cantina Barbera, a boutique winery in Menfi, Sicily; its director is Roberto Fabris, founder of Wine Hills, which has a long experience exporting to North America.

Event

BISS summer camp

The 2009 Beijing BISS International School Summer Camp, for children ages 5 to 14, offers an interesting mix of English classes, field trips and sporting activities. Make the most of your summer by making new friends and strengthening your language skills at the same time.

The Beginners course is designed for students who have studied English for less than a year, while the Intermediate course is for those who have more than a year's exposure to the language. Students will gain confidence in written and spoken English through theme-based activities focusing on grammar, listening and reading comprehension, pronunciation and vocabulary.

Where: Beijing BISS International School, 17 Area 4, Anzhen Xili, Chaoyang District

When: May 15 – June 22

Tel: 6443 3151

Cost: Deposit of 500 yuan, call for more details

5th Anniversary Party @ Souk Mezze & Shisha Bar

Souk celebrates its 5th anniversary with live music, free shots and food specials. Free Happy Anniversary Absinthe Shots will be passed around to those who want a little help from the Green Fairy. Draft Beer at 5 yuan will help wash down all the finger food that will be given away.

Where: Souk, West gate of Chaoyang Park (behind Annie's pizza), Chaoyang District

When: May 22, 5 pm – 2 am

Tel: 6506 7309

Kung Pao Shakespeare

The Cheekymoneytheater presents its newest play *Kung Pao Shakespeare*, a marriage of English literature and Chinese humor.

Where: Canadian International School, 38 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 22-24, 7:30-9:30 pm

Tel: 15810803034

Cost: 120 yuan; 60 yuan for students

2009 Beijing Nine Gates Jazz Festival

The 4th Beijing Nine Gates International Jazz Festival features jazz masters and bands from 13 countries.

When: May 22-27, 2-11 pm

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall

Tel: 5278 6071

Cost: 60-280 yuan; 30 yuan for students; and 380 yuan for VIP

(By Wei Ying)

Dragon Boat Festival welcomes the summer



A Dragon Boat Race at Beijing Qiannianhu lake, Xicheng District

CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

Office workers will get a holiday from May 28 to 30 in celebration of the traditional Dragon Boat Festival. From May 21 to June 8, the city will hold a carnival with 33 cultural events in the downtown area and the suburbs.

People's beloved Qu Yuan

The festival was established to commemorate Qu Yuan, a famous poet in the Kingdom of Zhou, now Hunan and Hubei provinces, during the Spring and Autumn period (770-403 BC). Qu battled corruption and advocated peace in the kingdom: goals which landed him in exile. When he heard that the Zhou kingdom had been defeated, he committed suicide by jumping into the Miluo River.

He was so loved by common people that they rushed to the river in long boats, beating drums to scare away the fish. They also threw into the water glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo leaves, so the fish might not eat Qu's body.

There will be a memorial for Qu at Longtan Park, in the southern part of the city, on May 28. The event is a great way to learn more about Chinese history and culture. There are also many restaurants you can enjoy. Admission to the park is 2 yuan.

How to get there: Take Bus 6, 12, 41, 60, 116 or 807 to Longtan Park stop.

Inviting good luck, warding off danger

The Dragon Boat Festival is also called Duanwu Festival, which means "the start of summer." Ancient Chinese used to mix wine with a type of mineral and brushed the paste on children's face. They believed this would bring good luck to the children and keep them from being harmed by dangerous animals like snakes.

The Imperial Academy, in the northern part of the city, will perform this ceremony on May 28. Admission costs 6 yuan.

How to get there: Take Bus 104 or 108 from Beijing Railway Station and get off at Guozhijian station.

Traditional temple fair

At the start of summer, people usually visit bazaars to relax or do business. Temple fairs should be on the agenda. Gaobeidian Village, on the eastern part of the city, will hold a temple fair on May 26 to 28, in which people can buy traditional Chinese products. Admission to the fair is free.

This will also be a good chance to look at furniture, since Gaobeidian has developed into a center for antique and contemporary furniture.

How to get there: Drive east on Chang'an Avenue until you get to the Beijing International Studies University (BISU). The village is just south of Chang'an. Alternatively, you can get Bus 312, 666, 667, 668,

669 or 728 from the southeast corner of Dabeyao and get off at the BISU stop.

Rice ball-wrapping contest

A Dragon Boat Festival will never be complete without sweet rice balls wrapped in bamboo leaves. This practice, which originated in Hunan Province, has spread throughout the country. In Huairou district, a village of Manchu people will hold a rice ball-wrapping contest. Manchurians, who are known for their hard work and good food, founded the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

How to get there: The village is 50 kilometers north of Huairou's center. Drive along Highway 111, which passes through the heart of the village. You can also take Bus 934, 970, 980 or 987 from Dongzhimen to the center of Huairou, then transfer to a local bus to the village.

Dragon Boat Race

The festival's most awaited event is the Dragon Boat Race. Yanqing county, in the city's northwest, has organized a race running through the Wei River. Yanqing has long been Beijing's wetlands and water source, and has a fantastic natural environment.

How to get there: Drive on the Beijing-Badaling Highway or Highway 111 to Yanqing center. Alternatively, you can take Bus 919 at Deshengmen, then get off in Yanqing.

Free bicycle rentals for a month



A bike rental spot at Baiwangzhuang Dajie, Xicheng District

CFP Photo

By Chen Zao

Beijing residents can rent bicycles for free from May 27 to June 20 by registering at rental outlets throughout the city. There are hundreds of these outlets, most of them near bus terminals and subway stations.

Anyone who wants to rent a bike only needs to register his or her Yikatong card, then pay a deposit of 180 yuan, according to a primer from the Beijing Fangzhou Rental Company. There are 35 centers where people can register their card and retrieve their deposit.

This service is aimed at providing more convenience to commuters who usually need to walk between subway stops and bus terminals. The bicycles may be returned to any rental outlet within the network.

The Fang Zhou company came up with this initiative as a response to the government's appeal to promote "green travel," which is a way to save energy and reduce pollution from motor vehicle emissions.

The bikes have been equipped with special "security" features to prevent them from being stolen. For example, they have been constructed using non-standard parts, which would have no demand on the market. The rental bikes are all the same model and color, so they are easy to spot. But the bottom-line is that users do not have to worry about theft; they pass on this headache to the bike rental company.

Bicycle rental outlets

Chaoyang District
Door 3, China-Japan Friendship Hospital

He Pingmen station Exit D, Subway Line 5

88 Jianguo Lu, Soho Xiandaicheng North gate of Chaoyang hospital, Gongti Nan Lu

Dongcheng District

Most of station of Subway Line 2 and Line 1

Xicheng District

Southeast of Xidan Lu

Most of the station of Subway Line 2 and Line 1

Changping District

Tiantong Xiyuan Exit A, Subway Line 5

For all locations and a map

check jtcx.beijing.cn/jtcx/xjxcaq/

Going country-hopping with your pet

By Zhang Dongya

Summer is a busy travel season for the city's expats. And those who are going overseas with their pets are concerned about exit procedures for animals. The International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS), a veterinary hospital in town, provides a guide on how to navigate formalities.

The first thing to do is to check the vaccination requirements of the country to which you traveling, since regulations vary from place to place. Pet owners can contact the country's embassy in Beijing or its Department of Agriculture or Center for Disease Control. Vaccinations should generally be done a month before the trip, but no more than a year before departure.

A health examination is required for exit, conducted seven to 10 days before travel. Examinations are conducted at the state-run Guanshang Animal Hospital, the hospital designated for the task. Pets will undergo a brief examination including urine and stool checks. The animal's vaccination record will need to be presented at this stage.

Afterwards, owners will be issued a Beijing International Companion Animal Health Inspection Form, which is needed to obtain the Animal Health Certificate



Make sure your pets travel safe.

CFP Photo

from the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau. The examination and tests should amount to 800 yuan.

Pets that need vaccinations may be brought to ICVS, which is an authorized rabies vaccinator.

The last step is to go to the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau seven to 10 days before the trip. Owners should bring the animal's vaccination record, health inspection form and any other relevant documents. Note that the Animal

Health Certificate is only valid for 14 days from the date of issue.

ICVS will hold free information sessions in the next two months to guide pet owners through the step-by-step process of taking animals out of China and into another country.

When: June 30 and July 16, 6: 30-7:30 pm

Where: International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS), 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjia Lou, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8456 1939/1940/1941



By Wang Yu

China's current crop of 20-somethings will never forget their first comic book. In the 1980s, the doors opened for primary school students, and stories flooded in from Japan. Many of these masterpiece comics changed the tastes of a generation of young readers, as well as their attitudes toward art and life.

And so, pop culture was born.

China's own comic industry had its start in the mid-1990s. A few comic artists have become stars, but many have abandoned the craft during the last decade. In 10 years, the living conditions of these illustrators have changed little.

Another life journey between the grids

By Wang Yu

China's current crop of 20-somethings will never forget their first comic book. In the 1980s, the doors opened for primary school students, and stories flooded in from Japan. Many of these masterpiece comics changed the tastes of a generation of young readers, as well as their attitudes toward art and life.

And so, pop culture was born.

China's own comic industry had its start in the mid-1990s. A few comic artists have become stars, but many have abandoned the craft during the last decade. In 10 years, the living conditions of these illustrators have changed little.

Gong Ding, a 24-year-old comic writer known on the Internet as CMJ, never anticipated making comic books his career before his debut work, the Wonderful Day trilogy released in December, 2004. At the time, Gong was an animation student at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing.

Even Ding doesn't know what his alias "CMJ" means. "It was used by one of my best friends from high school who just vanished. I assumed the alias to release my works online. I always hoped one day he might look it up and find me," Gong said, staring at his box of French fries in a McDonald's.

His friend did show up after six years in the military. While the real CMJ was serving China, Gong was building his reputation as an comic artist. He drew his first story after working on an animated short film with his teacher and classmates.

"Making an animation takes more than energy and money: You need a team with a leader who knows how to manage. You can hardly pull it off on your own, and that's why I turned to manga for my own expression," Gong said.

Wonderful Day was well received by forum-

goers, and Gong took six months off to ponder whether he had a future in comics.

"I learned a lot from other artists' experiences. I thought about whether or not I could handle all the difficulties they faced," Gong said. To get closer to a girl he liked, Gong made up his mind to create his stories in the grids.

Live as an artist

After graduating, Gong went to Guangzhou where he worked part time drawing portraits on the street while crafting comic pages in his apartment. He saved money for months and quit his job to work full time on his comic Shuikun.

Unfortunately, the plan was hardly perfect and Gong ran out of money after three months. He was forced to live off his assistant's saving.

"One day, he lost his wallet on the way to my house. All we had left was 5.6 yuan in coins we found scattered all over the room. I used the money buy sugar and we made bean porridge to live off for the next few days. That was the day the Beijing Olympics began," Gong said.

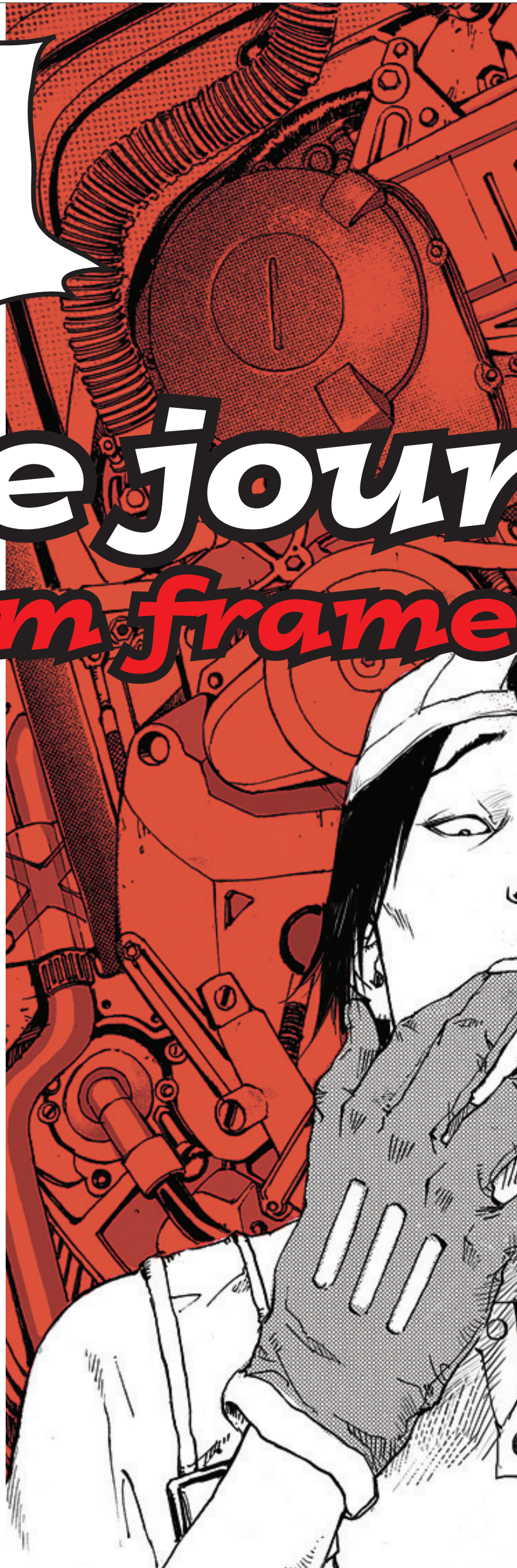
But those were Gong's hardest times. Today, he works as the design editor for a fashion magazine. But he is still saving money for the next creative storm.

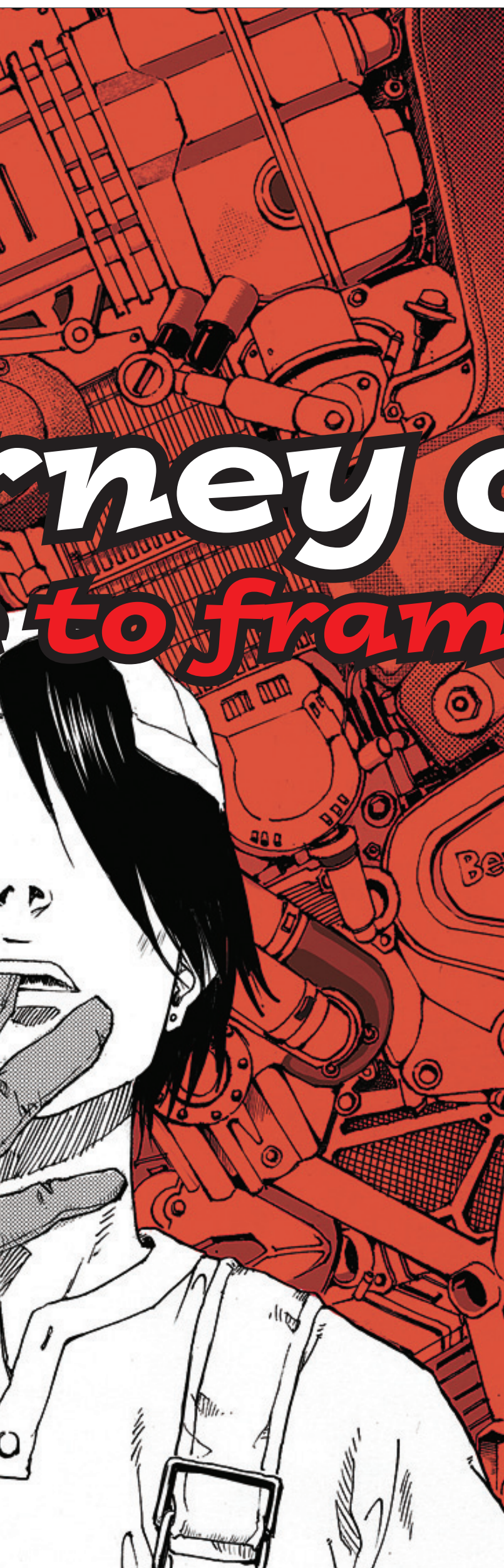
"My trick for making manga is to draw as little as possible. You have to use your time to live and find the interesting moments in life. Sometimes a full-time job may get in the way, but I'm still young and want to release my creative works ... even if they don't make me any money," he said.

A comic writer in China must know how to survive poverty while staying healthy, he said.

Many give up and find work in graphic design. "You choose your own life, and you choose which problems you have to face," he said.

The Journey From frame





ourney of Life

to frame

At the side of
mainstream

But Gong's start in comics came late compared to other popular Chinese authors. The pervasive dark atmosphere and mirror of society is what won him many fans, who found something new in his style.

His characters were scornful of the establishment and saw life as dark and brutal. Their humor tended to the sexual. Their thoughts came in monologue. But between the lines of "dirty words," many readers found resonance with Gong.

Wonderful Day tells the story of three brothers who try to save people from the same group of gangsters at different times, but all end up dead or arrested. In Shikun, a young man of the same name is part of a "beggar show," where persuades people to give up their careers and dies when he tries to save a disabled girl in a traffic accident.

"The reason why I always make stories connected with or reflecting real life is because it's the only thing I know. I'm not confident enough to write about things I have never experienced," Gong said.

The artist admitted that most of his stories are inspired from friends' ideas. He records many seemingly "meaningless" conversations in his notebook. He is also an unabashed appreciator of Wang Shuo, the novelist decried by



many of China's more proper as a "spiritual pollutant" for his thuggish prose.

But talking with Gong is enjoyable. Unlike his characters, Gong is a quiet optimist.

"The stories I make are just one aspect of myself. Everyone feels negative or like a loser at some point. I exaggerate these feelings: It doesn't mean I hate the world," Gong said.

"Bad emotions create immediate conflict in any story. When the world is happy, it's a lot harder to write a story that won't turn out to be actionless and common. I am trying to handle fond memories of old times in my next story - I just hope I am capable of keeping such a topic interesting," he said.

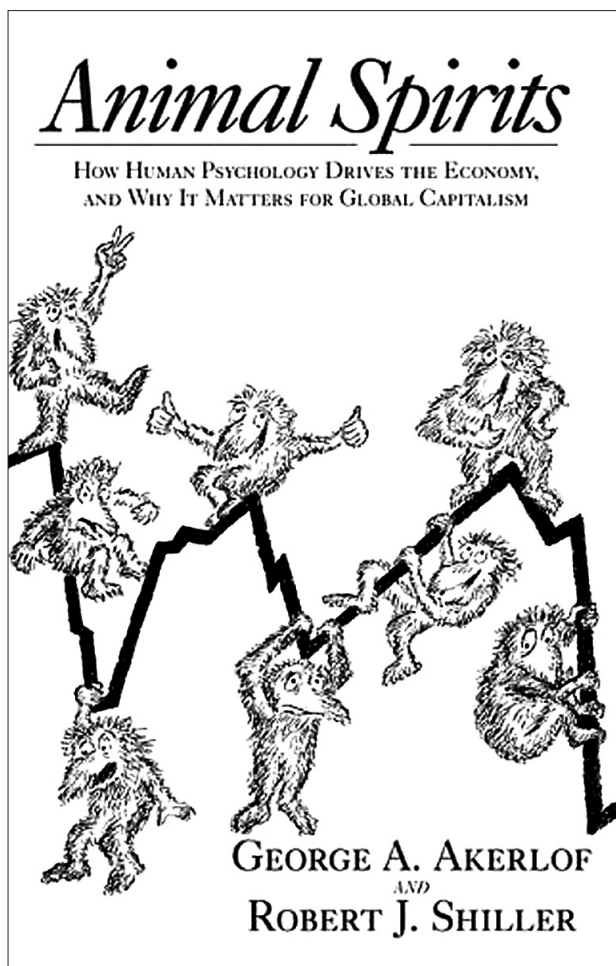
Manga is not painting

Gong said his talent lies in his storytelling. "Compared with other authors, I don't think I am any better at drawing. But I make up for that with my stories," he said.

In The Sun Also Rises, Gong tells the absurd story of a man who woke up without his penis. His friends do not believe him, the police want nothing to do with the case and the confused hospital sends him to the gynecology department. But the tragedy makes him concentrate on his career, and in the end he finds a place in high society.

Illustrations provided by Gong Ding

'Animal spirits' need a cage



By Charles Zhu

The subprime crisis in America, like a cancerous growth, led to a series of collapses in the banking system and a worrying economic depression. Many wonder if it is a repeat of the 1930s, and if so, what is wrong with America's economic system?

George A. Akerlof, the 2001 Nobel Laureate in Economics and a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and Robert J. Shiller, professor of economics and finance at Yale University, suggest some answers in *Animal Spirits: How Human Psychology Drives the Economy, and Why It Matters for Global Capitalism* (230pp, Princeton University Press, US \$24.95).

They argue, "The system of safeguards developed from the experience of the Great Depression has eroded. It is therefore necessary for us to renew our understanding of how capitalist economies – in which people have not only rational economic motives but also all kinds of animal spirits – really work."

What are these animal spirits? The authors say confidence is one, among other traits of

human weaknesses. Instead of rationally analyzing and weighing all options, people act on the assumption that a home they buy is sure to rise in value.

Similarly, confidence drives up stock prices more than corporate balance sheets and pure reason. "High confidence tends to be associated with inspirational stories, stories about new business initiatives, tales of how others are getting rich," the authors write. Fairness, they say, is an animal spirit too. Bosses who try to be fair are often liable to pay their employees more than the market demands. Corruption is another animal spirit. This includes a natural inclination to produce not just what people need, but what they think they need, like mortgage-backed securities, "a modern form of snake oil," they say.

These animal spirits – the weaknesses at the core of economic activity – drive economic activity mad, and there is an absolute need to have regulators as unseen hands in what is called creative capitalism. They will devise new regulatory structures that will provide room for financial innovation to proceed while keeping systemic problems in check.

Americans, especially Republicans, have a blind faith in free-for-all capitalism and market forces and have intense antipathy towards regulation. They have forgotten the hard-earned lesson of the Great Depression in the 1930s: Capitalism must be confined to a playing field where the government sets the rules and acts as a referee. A talented soccer player wants a referee, for only when the game has a set of mutually observed rules can he show his talents.

The authors say the current financial crisis should make people wiser and help bring improved financial regulation. Self-regulatory organizations, such as trade associations and exchanges, will play in collaboration with government regulations.

They argue that if people consider the whole economy, with all of its animal spirits, facts indicate that the government must set rules. Its role is not to contain animal spirits, but to set them free so they can work to their maximum creativity.

The break from orthodox Keynesian mainstream theory makes *Animal Spirits* a milestone in economic thought.

History is 'his' story

By He Jianwei

Last year, the 78-year-old Taiwanese historian Cho-Yun Hsu announced he would stop writing. A few months later, Guangxi Normal University Press selected Hsu's best articles to publish in two books for mainland readers.

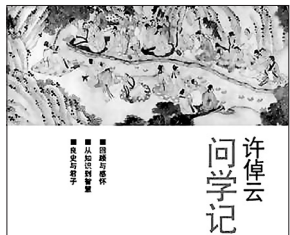
Cho-Yun Hsu Wenxue Ji (*Cho-Yun Hsu's Story of Study*, 276pp, 32 yuan) records his life and academic life. The second book *Cho-Yun Hsu Guan Shibian* (*Cho-Yun Hsu's Observation on the Changing World*, 367pp, 36 yuan), include Hsu's historical view about the relationship between China and the world.

Hsu's own life is an adventure. He was disabled from birth, and did not attend school until he was 15.

He graduated from history department of Taiwan University, though he most wanted to specialize in foreign language. The teacher who looked over Hsu's exams referred him to university President Fu Sinian, a famous Chinese educator and linguist, who asked Hsu to pursue history.

At age 32, Hsu earned a PhD from Chicago University.

He remained grateful despite all the suffering in



his life. "When looking back at my studies and research, I realized that I had been an onlooker of history, but never its participant. Still, I learned how to see history

from other perspectives," he wrote.

In childhood, he could never play with the other children. In high school, he saw his classmates go through times bitter and sweet as they explored high school love. At a Chicago hospital, Hsu watched a boy die of leukemia as other children recovered.

"All these experiences taught me how to understand history. After all, history is life in the past: the happiness, anger, grief and joy people experienced in ancient times," he wrote.

Hsu said the two books represent two chapters of one article. "To read history is to learn, and to discuss history is to observe. The processes are the two sides of the same coin."

But unlike his peers, Hsu never writes about the emperors and dynasties. He cares about how the little people lived in each dynasty.

In his second book, he puts Chinese history in the context of world history. He compares and contrasts Chinese culture with the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Rome.

"Only one thing throughout history is eternal: change," he wrote.

Bookworm book listing

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following best sellers to *Beijing Today* readers.

The Slaughter Pavilion

By Catherine Sampson, 297pp, Macmillan, US \$16.95

A man throws himself off the top of a building in one of Sampson's novels. Behind him, tied to an advertising board, is his dead and frozen child. Having earlier rejected the man's plea for help, Beijing private investigator Song has enough to deal with – Song's own father-in-law, soon to be tried on corruption charges, is found dead. Did he kill himself or was someone else involved? Nevertheless, Song cannot forget the man and his frozen child. When he starts to investigate, he finds himself drawn into a web of evil that pits him against the corrupt and powerful.

First Pass Under Heaven: One Man's 4000-kilometre Trek along the Great Wall of China

By Nathan Gray, 240pp, Penguin Global, US \$22.00

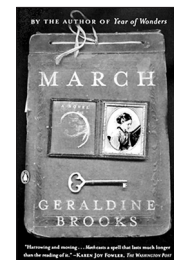
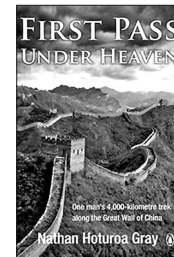
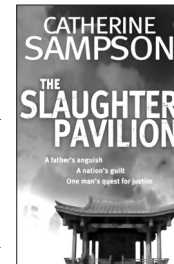
The Great Wall of China is the largest man-made structure ever built, stretching 4,000 kilometers from central Asia, across the Gobi Desert, through the remote, cold mountains of northern China to end on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Nathan Gray, a young New Zealand lawyer, wanted to be the first person in history to walk the entire length of the Great Wall. In October 2000 he set off with four fellow travelers: a Buddhist monk from Singapore, a Jewish photojournalist from Argentina, a Catholic recording artist from Italy and a Mormon golfer.

March

By Geraldine Brooks, 304pp, Penguin, US \$15.00

From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic *Little Women*, Geraldine Brooks has animated the character of the absent father, March, and crafted a story filled with the ache of love and marriage and with the power of war upon the mind and heart of one unforgettable man. He follows March as he leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs.



(By He Jianwei)

Grassroots translators messengers of the West



By Zheng Lu

Chinese netizens have more accesses to Western news and literature not because they click the online version of *Guardian*, *The New York Times* or *The Economist*, but because these media are being translated into their own language.

Many web translators work every day to translate the latest world news for free. Some work alone, but most work in teams of dozens to hundreds to bridge the net's language gap.

Young adult translators

English information is estimated to make up 80 percent of the Web's content. It takes a massive effort to translate this constantly growing content for younger readers, many of whom cannot competently read English but expect to have access to the information anyway.

Tackling such a problem goes beyond the scope of professional translators, and that's where the Internet comes in. Online translators work for free on Web sites like cnblog.org and yeeyan.com. Their efforts come from personal interest rather than monetary pursuit, and translation is little more than a side hobby.

"Many translators are undergraduate students at colleges, the rest are office workers," said Zhang Wenwu, the administrator of yeeyan.com. He said most translators are in their 20s, what Chinese media term the "post-80s generation." The Internet is their platform to share and show off their talents.

Nesting ground for idealists

Yeeyan.com, the largest of the translation sites, has 60,000 registered translators updating some 100 articles every day. The site generates 100 times that many clicks every day.

Zhang said these people are willing to sacrifice their time and energy for a variety of reasons. "The main one is their wish to break the language barrier in communication," he said. "It is also a chance to practice their foreign language skills, make friends who share their interests and become an opinion leader in whichever area they specialize."

Julia D, a Yeeyan.com activist, has been translating for more than six months. She started translating to fill in time after following her husband to the US while he worked on his MBA degree. "I became a housewife and had no pressure to work," she said. Her father back home was always asking for updates about US news. Recognizing the demand for translated news, she did it at first to kill time.

Her translations were notable because they did not simply translate the story, but edited it and augmented it with bits from other sources. She currently maintains the column "What foreigners are reading today," where she cover politics, economics, culture, technology and entertainment.

The translations are not only from English. Many translators of other languages have joined up as well. Tong Xin, a 20-year-old who studies in Spain, closely followed the scene, but only recently began to publish his Spanish media translations on Yeeyan.com. "I found Spanish news were almost nonexistent on the Chinese landscape. Since I have access to Spanish news, I wanted to take a shot at translating it," Tong said. His translations take the form of a blog.

Commercial elements?

Translation is a hard job, and usually a thankless one. How long any translator can remain enthusiastic about working for free is a big question.

Tong Xin, the Spanish media translator, said he was motivated by clicks. "When I see my translations getting more and more readers, it makes me happy to know I am getting noticed," he said.

Julia D said she was unsure how long she could continue. Most of her friends who started with her have quit because their jobs did not offer the spare time needed for translation. "It is a labor of love that brings in no income," she said. She and other leading members of Yeeyan.com are seeking a way to turn a profit.

"We don't want to make big money," Julia D said, rather she wants to find a way to offer material rewards to encourage translators. But right now, she is focused on expanding the site. "We considered setting up an English version, to translate Chinese articles into English for English speakers," she said. She is hoping the new project would get more volunteers.

Yeeyan.com's project list has started to include paid translation projects, the first step in taking the Web site commercial.

The difference between paid and voluntary translation is in the return, Zhang Wenwu, the project director, said. "Paid projects offer a direct return, while community (voluntary) translations give the translators a sense of accomplishment for sharing their interests and improving their language ability," he said.

The percentage of paid translators has remained constant as volunteer numbers have swelled, he said.

Practical successes

Many people remember the *Earthquake Security Manual* published last year by the Earthquake Press. But the pamphlet would never have happened without grassroots translators.

Yeeyan.com has a section for "cooperative projects" which focuses on specific projects that need translators to work as a team. They collect information about the project from foreign media and arrange a team to translate it.

Right after the May 12 quake, some 600 translators formed a group to translate and compile earthquake relief materials. Within a week, they finished 100,000 words on the subject and were published by the Earthquake Press as the *Earthquake Security Manual*. A recent important project is the translation of H1N1 flu material. Dozens of articles about basic knowledge and the latest news about the A strand have been translated by this group into Chinese.

Instead of appointing tasks, most translation projects seek applicants. *The Guardian*, for example, has authorized Yeeyan.com to translate its columns, so the daily task list includes *Guardian* columns in need of translation.

CFP Photo

Energy-saving devices for daily living

By Jin Zhu

The global campaign to protect the environment and fight climate change has brought energy-saving products into the domestic market. In Beijing, there's a store called Quanmei that sells an astonishing 500 kinds of energy-saving devices for use in daily life.



Quanmei has hundreds of energy-saving products.

Negative ion energy-saving bulb

This bulb may not look special, but it saves energy using negative-ion technology. Besides using 20 percent less electrical power than its ordinary counterparts, it promises to dispel harmful gases such as smoke and formaldehyde gas, common in newly painted houses.

An experiment with a negative ion energy-saving bulb and an ordinary



one placed inside separate smoke-filled glass containers showed that the energy saver cleared away the smoke 20 seconds after the lights were switched on.

"It may be a little more expensive than ordinary bulbs, but since its power consumption is low, it will save you more than 30 yuan in a year," Wang Lin, Quanmei's store owner, said.

Price: 48 yuan

Trash bin with automatic lid

Children are always reminded to wash their hands after throwing rubbish in covered public trash bins. Nobody wants to carry around bacteria from the lid.

Well, an "intelligent" trash bin has finally been invented. Powered only by four No. 1 batteries, the bin's lid opens automatically when you wave your hand above it. The batteries can last a whole year.

Price: 160 yuan



Energy

Fire-free boiler

When we cook meat, make porridge or prepare soup, ordinary pots use a lot of energy, since the food needs to be left to simmer after it boils.

This fire-free boiler, made of insulated material, provides the perfect solution. It conserves heat and no longer consumes energy once the food is left to simmer for around half an hour. Thus, it saves 50 to 75 percent of energy compared with ordinary pots.

"The pot is portable and families can take it with them when they travel to the suburbs. It can maintain a temperature of 60C for four hours and 45 C for eight hours. For the summer, I plan to use it as an ice bucket," Zhang Dan, a customer said.

Price: 380 yuan



Gas-saving cooking stove

This stove, made of fire-proof cordierite, enables you to cook much faster, thus saving on 45 percent of gas compared with regular models.

Since it's made of heat and fire-resistant materials, it can last up to 10 years. This efficient cooking stove is suitable for house parties in which hosts cook in the dining room.

Price: 48 yuan



Energy

Portable energy-saving car washer

One of the biggest hassles for people who love to go on road trips is how dirty their favorite car gets after passing muddy roads and dusty highways. This is likely the reason this portable car washer was invented.



This energy-saving device is made of durable, environmentally-friendly plastic, and is externally powered; it will come to life once you connect it to your car's cigarette lighter socket. It can hold two liters of cold water and has an adjustable gun-like nozzle. You can change the spray pattern from "stream" to "fan," depending on what you want.

"The car washer has brought me great convenience," Zhang Hongwei, a Beijing resident, said. "Wherever I drive, I can clean my car anytime. And since its spray is gentle enough for the skin, I also use it to wash my dog."

Price: 518 yuan

Energy-saving pot with fin tubes

Imagine yourself rushing home from work to prepare a group dinner and having less than an hour before your guests arrive. Wouldn't it be nice to have a "magic" pot to help you save time and energy?

The pot features a wavy bottom and fin tubes, which help conduct heat. "The pot's surface area is four to five times larger than an ordinary pot's. Once the water temperature reaches 70 C, you save 31 percent of energy and 33 percent of time. When it reaches the boiling point, nearly 50 percent of energy is saved," Zhang Bo, Quanmei's store manager, said.

On top of this, the pot promises to make cooking safer. "When you heat ordinary pots, the whole thing gets hot. With the energy-saving pot, even when the bottom gets heated, its other parts remain cool. There's less worry about getting burnt due to carelessness," Zhang Dan, a customer, said.

Price: 220 yuan



Photos provided by Quanmei

Quanmei energy-saving and environmentally-conscious daily necessities store
Where: 102 Building C, Songyu Nan Li, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8732 4729

The invasion of southern street food

By Annie Wei

It seems Beijingers just woke up one day to find southern rice noodle shops and sweet food stores all over town. They not only add more options to the city's already extensive menu; they also offer light food in small portions – ideal for people who have a smaller appetite in warm weather.

17
Food

Made in Beijing, grown in Yunnan

Yunnan restaurants in town commonly go through the same cycle: They start out small, attract a loyal following, become busier, then before you know it, the quality of food goes down the drain. Discriminating diners might one day find themselves jolted into reality: Have I turned into a Beijing tourist who knows nothing of Chinese food but is willing to fork out money for the "local ambience"?

People who are going through this self-assessment might want to try Lijiang Paigu Hotpot.

The restaurant is quite small and narrow, but thankfully, it has a second floor with a cozy lounge and a big balcony. There's no sign leading to the upper level, so those who know it are mostly regular customers.

The restaurant's hotpot dishes come in big servings. Its preserved rib hotpot (68 yuan) contains preserved pork ribs, along with other fresh ingredients. Diners can order and mix in wild mushrooms (10-12 yuan), potatoes (10 yuan) and banlangen (10 yuan), a type of vegetable that's also used as a Chinese herbal medicine for colds. Lijiang Paigu's management

said they bring in most of their ingredients from Yunnan Province every week.

Their drinks are a good antidote to the warm weather: green plum wine (16 yuan), tamarind juice (6 yuan), bamboo-preserved rice wine (28 yuan), mango juice (8 yuan), rice wine (18 yuan) and Dali beer (10 yuan). People who like German beer might find Yunnan's Dali beer too light. But southern women love it.

Lijia Paigu Hotpot

Where: 217 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6406 3738
Cost: 50 yuan per person



Lijiang hotpot has a light flavor.

Vegetables grown in Yunnan
Photos by Yu Tingmei



Changfen is one of the most popular food in South China Photos by Yu Tingmei

Cheapest changfen in town

Unlike other *hutong* eateries, Xiaoqie Dessert is easily found. It is located in a plainly decorated courtyard residence on Dongsì Bei Dajie. It has only five small tables, a bookshelf and a painting on the wall, reminiscent of a struggling student's apartment.

And these are exactly the people that the eatery attracts; students flock to Xiaoqie, some come all the way from the Haidian university area, which is 1.5 hours by subway. Customers come for inexpensive southern Chinese desserts, and one of their best sellers is *changfen* (6 yuan).

Changfen is minced pork, beef or shrimp and vegetables wrapped in a rice-paper wrapper. It's a popular breakfast food in the south, much like *baozi* is in the north. Changfen vendors abound in meat and vegetable markets; people typically ask for one or two changfen, and voila – breakfast is served! Each piece costs 2 to 4 yuan, depending where you buy it and what stuffings you get.

In Beijing, changfen is usually available in restaurants that serve Cantonese food, like Jindingxuan and Aomenjie, a Macanese restaurant at The Place. They charge 18 to 22 yuan per order of changfen, so Xiaoqie's 6 yuan is a steal.

Another item that's value for money is Xiaoqie's steamed papaya with milk (5 yuan), which has a very fresh taste. It



costs 16 to 25 yuan in Cantonese dining places, so send heaven a prayer of thanks.

Also recommended is Xiaoqie's *shuangpinnai* (8 yuan), or double skim milk, simmered milk topped with a firm layer of egg white and milk. The dessert, which has a jelly-like consistency, comes in four flavors: original, red bean, green bean and coconut juice.

The eatery also serves meat dishes for people who want something more substantial. Try its steamed rice with chicken and mushrooms (12 yuan), which comes in a big serving.

Just remember that you came for the food and not for the impeccable service or classy decor.

Xiaoqie Dessert Store

Where: 52 Jiaozi Hutong, Dongsì Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6401 6981
Cost: 15 yuan per person



Hunan rice noodle, 20 yuan



Inside the restaurant
Photos by Yu Tingmei

Coffee plus Hunan rice noodles

Wang Feng, a 28-year-old freelance cameraman from Hunan Province, recommended this cafe that also serves Hunan rice noodles. "I think such a combination is interesting," Wang said.

We agree. If there are places that sell coffee and bread, coffee and tapas, coffee and ice cream, why not one that serves coffee and Chinese street food?

Cafe Coffee + Shuren Hunan Rice Noodle shares an entrance with Souk, a restaurant by Chaoyang Park's west gate that's popular with the expat crowd. The Hunan restaurant has a coffee shop appeal with its wide wooden windows, ceramic bottle displays and potted plants. A cup of coffee costs 20 yuan, while osmanthus tea is 15 yuan.

The restaurant's main seller is its rice noodles – spicy, or beef and vegetable, and priced from 15 to 20 yuan. Compared with Guilin rice noodles, Hunan's version is spicier and its noodles firmer. To maintain the authentic Hunan taste, Cafe Coffee + Shuren Hunan Rice Noodle hired a chef from the province.

Its stewed meat dishes (15 yuan) are also good, and go well with turnip pickle (8 yuan).

Cafe Coffee + Shuren Hunan Rice Noodle

Where: In the same alley as Souk, west gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 8 pm
Tel: Not yet available
Cost: 15 yuan per person

An Eastern journey for the Welsh Red Dragon

By He Jianwei

Last year, eight emerging visual artists from leading universities in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing were sent to Wales for special training.

Now, an exhibition titled *Celebrating the Red Dragon* gives people a chance to see the artists' creations inspired by their Welsh experience. The dragon is Wales' symbol, thus the exhibition's name.

The featured works include videos, installations, paintings and photographs. They cover a variety of subjects: Wales, cross-cultural communication, environment, identity.

Chen Wei, a postgraduate student from Xiamen University, made a video called *Winter Came Back Yesterday*, inspired by an exceptionally snowy April day in Aberystwyth, Wales. Chen's work explored "the link between abnormal weather and personal loneliness," a topic that fascinates him.

Chen Jiao, from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, discussed the influence of dissimilar educational backgrounds. "Different cultures provide people with different angles from which to view the world," she said. "At the UWIC School of Art and Design in Cardiff, I clearly saw the different kind of



Photo provided by British Council

education I received in China."

Her creations include portraits of Confucius, Isaac Newton, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Zhang Heng, a mathematician and geographer during the Eastern Han Dynasty. "These portraits are commonly seen in Chinese schools. Maybe our views

toward the world and moral values have been influenced by these great people. But how did the Welsh people form their views and values?" Chen Jiao said.

Three renowned Welsh artists also attended the exhibition, which is part of a series of cultural exchange programs organized by the British Council and the Welsh Arts International.

"It offers a unique opportunity for Welsh and Chinese artists to share their experiences and knowledge. It also offers an opportunity for people in Wales and China to develop cultural relationships. We hope that artists from Wales will be able to have a similar experience in China in the future," Eluned Haf, director of the Wales Arts International, said.

The Welsh Assembly Government provided financial support to the exhibition, while partners in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing provided venues.

Celebrating the Red Dragon – A China-Wales Visual Arts Exhibition

Where: Wall Art Museum, 34 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until May 25, 10 am – 5 pm
Tel: 6564 8232 ext. 801

Upcoming

Exhibition

Don't Go So Fast – Zhang Qing Solo Exhibition
Where: ShanghART Beijing, 261 Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District
When: May 30 – June 21, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 3202

Stage in June

Concert

2009 French Piano Festival Beijing – Stephen Kovacevich Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District
When: June 5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Windsbacher Knabenchor China Premiere

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District
When: June 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-380 yuan
Tel: 6831 6633

Wilderness

Who: China Opera and Dance Drama Theater
Where: Concert Hall of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 20, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Immortal Mendelssohn – Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn's Birth

Who: China National Opera House Symphony Orchestra
Where: Concert Hall of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 27, 7:30 pm
Admission: to be announced
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

The Sounds of Yunnan

Who: Yang Liping, Xia Ga
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: From June 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 5166 3124

Raymonda

Who: The Bayerische Staatsballet
Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 24-26, 7:30 pm
Admission: to be announced
Tel: 6655 0000

Dream Variations – Collected Programmes

Who: The Bayerische Staatsballet
Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 27, 7:30 pm
Admission: to be announced
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

Verdi's Rigoletto

Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 18-21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 280-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

5 Friday, May 22

Exhibition

Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig's Donation to the National Art Museum



Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until May 25, daily except Monday, 9 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6400 6326

The Great Way Prevails – Masterpieces of Modern Art

Where: Museum of the China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 18, daily except Monday, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6477 1575

Movie

Hoodwinked

Where: 2308 Building

D, SOHO New Town, 88 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 6:45-9 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8580 0017

Nightlife

Africa Day 2009

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

The Colors of Rhythm

Where: Star Live, 3/F, 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng District
When: 9:30 pm
Admission: 100 yuan
Tel: 6425 5677

6 Saturday, May 23

Exhibition

Looking Forward, Who Cares! – Lu Xi Solo Exhibition



Where: Line Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao

Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until June 20, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9685

A Hundred Years of Dutch Architecture – From Berlage to Koolhaas

Where: Museum of the China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 15, daily except Monday, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6477 1575

Movie

Che Guevara

Where: Utopia Book Club, 9/F, Entrance 1,

Building C, Changyuantian Plaza, 18 Suzhou Jie, Haidian District

When: 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6276 0856

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter ... and Spring

Where: Uncommon Grounds Cafe, 63 Wudaoying Hutong, Yonghegong, Dongcheng District
When: 7-9 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8402 5230

Nightlife

Acid Live

Where: 2Kolegas, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu (inside the drive-in movie theater park), Chaoyang District
When: 3-11:55 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6436 8998

7 Sunday, May 24

Exhibition

Game – Desire of ECG Photography Exhibition

Where: Fifth Element Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until May 29, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 1338

Inside View Beijing – Floriane de Lassee's Solo Photography Exhibition



Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery II, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 30, daily, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9262

Movie

Generation Yamakasi

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Nightlife

Emil de Waal + Bandapart

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 60 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Miracle by Ma'en River

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

No need for shame after nocturnal fantasy

Wet dreams a form of expression

In China, a wet dream is euphemistically called a "Spring dream."

Di said common elements of such dreams are naked men or women, kissing, petting, undressing, shared baths, swimming and intercourse. "Sometimes the figure in the dream is clear and the hero or heroine in the dream is usually someone with whom you are familiar; sometimes it is opaque, and sometimes it is just a shadow or part of a human organ; sometimes heterosexual people experience a homosexual episode in a dream; sometimes there is a plot of sexual assault, though the dreamer isn't given to episodes of sexual violence," she said.

Like many dreams, wet dreams often present symbols or metaphors. "The person is not necessarily the hero in a wet dream. Columnar or striped objects like snakes, worms, bullets or chopsticks can be symbols of male genitalia. Dreams which take such forms may indicate a very sexually repressed individual," she said.

Women tend to have such repressed dreams more often, especially if they went through an episode of sexual trauma during childhood. This could include sexual harassment, seeing an adult's genitals or seeing a sex act. Often such experiences will deepen a woman's fear of sex, leading to sexual apathy in adulthood, Di said.

Five elements of the dreams

Hu Haixiang, director of andrology from the General Hospital of the Air Force People's Liberation Army, said the wet dream is usually influenced by five factors:

1. Sexual desire. The stronger the libido the more direct the wet dream. "Women in their 40s and men in their 20s are the most sexually active; they are more likely to have wet dreams during this age bracket," he said.
2. Sexual experience. People with no sexual experience usually have very simple wet dreams. By contrast, a sexual dream is more vivid and concrete in individuals with a rich sexual background. "According to Alfred Charles Kinsey, young girls' sexual dreams tend to be romantic. The contents of such dreams are usually kisses and hugs, while married and middle-aged women's dreams are more direct and bold, and many women climax during the dream," he said.
3. Gender. Generally speaking, for males, wet dreams begin from the age they become capable of ejaculation and taper off from age 65. For women, it occurs when menstruation begins and decreases after menopause. "A previous survey showed that almost 100 percent of men had nocturnal orgasms, while about 70 percent of women had them. Men's dreams occurred more frequently, and their content was more direct," he said.
4. Education. "The higher your education, the more often you will have nocturnal orgasms," he said. A previous survey found university men were five times more likely to have sexual dreams than junior high school boys," he said.
5. Attitude. The more open the sexual attitude, the more direct the dream.

By Venus Lee

Most people like to chat and joke about their dreams: except when those dreams are of the wet variety.

According to recent poll results from Sohu.com, 97.6 percent of respondents have had a wet dream – more properly called a "nocturnal orgasm." Among them, more than half enjoyed the dream, while 3.27 percent people felt sick or ashamed.

Sexual dreams reflect how rich your fantasies are, and nocturnal orgasm depends on one's ability to fantasize. "The more meaningful and colorful your life is, the more plentiful your dreams," said Di Xiaolan, the director of sexual psychology at Beijing Huilongguan Hospital.

Normal sign of health

The sexual pleasure of such dreams is no accident, Di said:

1. It is a chance for the body to make sure all its organs are working.
2. It can help people recover from stresses accumulated during the day.
3. It is compensation for erotic loss in the real world. Sexual dreams release pent-up emotions and sexual desires and help prevent depression.

"In the rapid eye movement stage of sleep, the body enters a stage of sexual excitement four or five times. During these periods, blood fills the sexual organs causing a reaction. When this happens, the sleeper is likely to have a sexual dream lasting 20 to 25 minutes," she said. Women who are menstruating are more likely to have sex-related dreams.

Some people consider such dreams a sign of strange ambitions and attempt to forget them immediately. Episodes could include sexual encounters with a neighbor or a spouse's best friend. "But from the point of view of a doctor, these dreams are probably not the complete plot of their dreams. They probably concealed something hard to talk about. Many sexual dreams are full of menace and risk or worse," she said. A survey found that 39 percent of women dreamed about being raped, and 29 percent of men had a homosexual encounter.

But these dreams are not symptoms of illness or potential sexual desire, only harmless curiosity about the body, she said.

Excessive dreams a drain

While the occasional wet dream can be an outlet for sexual tension, regular nocturnal orgasms can take their toll on the dreamer's daytime state. "Although you will probably forget what you dreamed by the next day, its impact on your psychological health continues. It can leave many dreamers feeling ecstatic, but this quickly descends into melancholy or depression," he said.

For people who have experienced sexual harassment, frequent sexual dreams may be a source of anxiety or oppression, or could distort their personality. Some fall into voyeurism, masochism or self-mutilation, in some cases even turning to acts of sexual sadism.

Dreaming too often?

If you are obsessed with sexual dreams, the doctors suggest the following:

To men:

1. Do not sleep facing down, under too thick a blanket or wearing too tight of an underwear.
2. Urinate before bed. If you have the urge to urinate during sleep, you may be aroused due to the sensation of having a swollen bladder.
3. Watch less porn.
4. Drink less, eat less spicy food and seafood. These are all considered part of an aphrodisiac diet.

To women:

1. Visit areas with a lot of water, because irrigated fields and ponds nourish Yin or cold energy according to Chinese medicine.
2. Read less romantic fiction and watch fewer romantic TV shows. Try to communicate more with your friends.
3. Eat more Chinese dates, safflower, ginger, wolfberry root, pilose antler blood, black beans, long thread moss, carrots, wheat gluten, spinach, lily flowers and longans.



CFP Photo

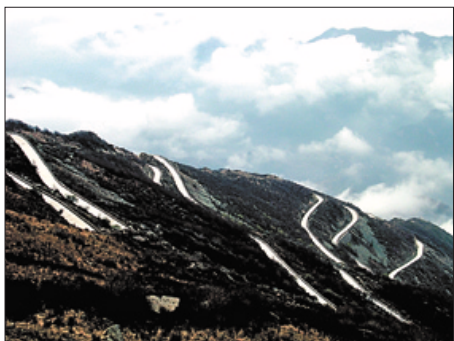
Discovering Beijing's peaks

By Zhang Dongya

Hiking in China is usually associated with challenging destinations like Lhasa in Tibet or Aba Ngaba in Sichuan. But the sport can be done practically in our backyard: in mountains around Beijing. These locations are a good choice for beginners, since they aren't very steep and are convenient to reach.

Aside from providing exercise and an adrenaline rush, hiking gives people an opportunity to enjoy nature. Although summer has already descended upon the city, the mountains retain the atmosphere of spring.

A sea of clouds can sometimes be seen from atop Miaofeng Mountain.



Roads on Baihua Mountain make hiking easier.



Miaofeng, the mountain nearest downtown Beijing, is considered the best hiking destination around the city.



Baihua becomes a mountain of flowers in spring time.

One-day hike in Miaofeng Mountain

Miaofeng is the mountain nearest downtown Beijing. With a height of more than 1,000 meters, it is considered by experts one of the best hiking destinations around the city.

It has three peaks that soar to 1,200 meters: Miaofengshan Peak, Dongdatuo Peak and Luobodi Peak. The best thing about Miaofeng is that one can reach the three peaks in one day. You can enjoy the feeling of being "on top of the world" for an entire day, and see the city laid out before you.

The route around the mountain can be divided into five sections: Langryu to Miaofengshan Peak to Baigong to Dongdatuo Peak to Luoboshan Peak and to Dajue Temple. Hikers will need approximately seven hours to complete the course; eight if you add in short breaks and lunch.

Little Goat, an avid hiker, shared on Soufun.com the schedule his group followed when they climbed Miaofeng last year.

They gathered at the Beijing North Railway Station at 6:30 am, then bought tickets (3.50 yuan each) for Train 7231 to Nankou station. The train left at 6:41 am and reached the destination an hour later. They made their way to Langryu on a minibus that sat six to

seven people, which cost 30 yuan.

They began ascending Miaofengshan Peak before 10:30 am, then Baigong at around 11:50 am. Afterwards, they broke for lunch on some grassy flatland.

On the way to Dongdatuo Peak, climbers will pass three stone tablets that mark the boundaries of Haidian,



Temples hiding in thick forest on Miaofeng

CFP Photos

Mentougou and Changping districts. By the time people complete the route around Miaofeng, they would have gone through the city's three districts.

Little Goat and his team reached Luobodi Peak at around 3 pm. After a quick break, they went down the

mountain to ensure they would get to the foot before sundown.

There are cliffs and rugged roads along the way, so people need to be very careful. Ask for help from other climbers if you need it.

Weaker climbers are advised to use another route once they reach Miaofengshan Peak. On their way down, they can go through Jiangou Village, which is famous for its vast field of roses. The best time to view the flowers is between May and June, when they are in full bloom.

Baihua Mountain's path to a flowery world

The mountain, located in Mentougou, is Beijing's third highest peak at 1,977 meters. With 1,100 plant and 170 animal species, Baihua is known as Northern China's Natural Park. Various flowers, including Chinese roses, azaleas and wild flowers, dot the mountain, especially in springtime. This world in full bloom is what awaits hikers.

Several ancient temples can be seen at Baihua's peak; one of them is Xiangguang Temple, the largest mountaintop temple in the Ming Dynasty. Xiangguang, which has been restored several times, is open to tourists and worshippers.

Continued on page 21...

... continued from page 20



A small waterfall in Ling Mountain

Other destinations:

Labagou Men

Labagou is located within a Man nationality township in Huairou. It has a thick forest known for being home to a variety of Chinese medicinal plants. Local guides can introduce visitors to the different kinds of herbal plants, such as licorice and skullcap.

Getting there: Take Bus 936 Subline to Labagoumen stop, or drive along Jingcheng

Expressway to Huairou, then go via National Highway 111 to reach the destination

Guji Mountain

The mountain, located on the border of Fangshan and Mentougou, has few cliffs and isn't very steep. Three Buddhist shrines can be found at its peak, but they have been abandoned and are partly destroyed. On

its southern foot are many historical places, including ancient temples and steles. Some of the temples have also been abandoned.

Getting there: Take Bus 931 to Lujiatan Xikou stop

Ling Mountain

At 2,302 meters high, Ling is the highest peak in Beijing. From the mountain-

top, hikers can see surrounding mountains. It also has a vast meadow with thick grass, which makes it the only ideal grazing area in Beijing for Qinghai and Tibetan plateau yak and Yili horses.

Getting there: Take Bus 929 Subline to Shuangtangjian

Xi stop. Alternatively, visitors can drive along Fushi Lu to Mentougou, then go via National Highway 109 to reach the place

Thick forests of Yunmeng Mountain

Yunmeng, dubbed "Little Huangshan," is located on the border of Miyun and Huairou counties. It is a national forest park and is ideal for treks in the summer, when the scent of fresh leaves assails the senses.

Its biggest attractions are the "Wonders of the Three Seas": seas of forests, clouds and flowers, which are a rare sight around Beijing. The temperature in the mountain, which has a 90-percent forest cover, averages 20 to 24 C, so visitors will feel comfortable even in the height of summer.

One route to the peak is from Yunmeng Mountain Gorge, past Dingdong pond, Juxian pond, Baihua pond and Bulao Dam. If you have no plan to conquer the mountaintop, you can just walk across the forest littered with streams, pines and gorges.

Backpackers recommended two abandoned courtyards to picnic. No one has lived in the area for years, but the buildings are still in good condition. There are open spaces inside and outside the courtyards, which are also suitable for camping. Not far from the buildings are a brook and a creek where campers can get water for washing up.

Only Bus 936 Subline travels all the way to Yunmeng Mountain stop. Alternatively, visitors can drive along Jingcheng Expressway to Huairou, then go by National Highway 111 to reach the foot of the mountain.



Beijing provides numerous hiking destinations in its suburbs.

CFP Photos

Tips:

1. Hiking in the Beijing mountains combines the skills of mountaineering, rock climbing and spelunking. Foreigners are advised to take a local friend or guide with them.

2. Basic hiking equipment is essential, such as lightweight walking boots and a warm jacket even in the summer. Accessories like a small headlamp or flashlight, as well as a hiking rod will be helpful.



Ling Mountain is an ideal grazing area in Beijing for sheep and horses.

Aviation

New Premium Voyageur Cabin on Air France

Air France is continuing to innovate by introducing a new, private cabin on its long-haul flights starting autumn. This Premium Voyageur cabin is situated between the Business and Economy cabins. Customers traveling in Premium Voyageur have access to all cabin services. A full fare ticket in Premium Voyageur earns customers 25 percent more Miles than they earn on an Economy ticket.

Bonjour Singapore Airlines A380



From June 1, Singapore Airlines will fly the world's largest passenger plane, the Airbus A380, on its Singapore-Paris route. The daily A380 flights connecting Singapore and Paris replace the existing 10-times weekly 278-seat Boeing 777-300ER.

SriLankan Airlines Greet New Spring

The conflict which has affected the country's north for two decades is rapidly nearing its end. The Sri Lankan tourism industry is preparing for a new spring: SriLankan Airlines is cooperating with Sri Lanka Tourism and hotels for new promotional activities. A postcard campaign will be launched, in which 250,000 postcards will be distributed to visitors. A similar discount booklet will also have 50 discount offers.

(By Sun Feng)

Dino Duva visits Goose & Duck



On a recent visit to China, world renowned boxing promoter Dino Duva (right) visited Beijing's legendary sports bar Goose & Duck. (From left owners John Harkness and Amy Zhang)

Dining

Dragon Boat Festival



Embrace the Dragon Boat Festival and discover Hong Kong Chef So Soon Kim's *Zongzi* rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves. For every 500 yuan spent in the restaurant, you will receive a voucher worth 100 yuan, valid on your next visit to this authentic Cantonese restaurant.

Where: Dragon Palace restaurant, Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa

Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 28, 11:30 am - 2 pm, 5:30-10 pm

Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 4108

Champagne-Inspired Menu

Petrus French restaurant is celebrating spring with a lavish three-course lunch menu and five-course dinner menu. The champagne-infused menu includes dishes like capon chicken with truffles, cepe royale and caramel champagne mousse.

Where: Petrus French restaurant, Legendale Hotel Beijing, 90-92 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

Cost: 198 yuan (three-

course lunch menu); 388 yuan (five-course lunch menu), subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 8511 3388

Monday is your lucky day

Monsoon is offering a cure for your "Case of the Mondays." All guests who dine on Monday will be added to a prize raffle list for their next meal. Prizes range from complimentary cake to 50 percent off your next dining experience.

Where: Monsoon Restaurant, InterContinental Beijing Financial Street Hotel, 11 Jinrong Jie, Xicheng District

When: before July
Tel: 5852 5888

Hotel

An Intimate Night of Discovery

Hilton Beijing Wangfujing officially opened with a celebration titled An Intimate Night of Discovery - A Hint of the Forbidden. Designed as a chic, intimate lifestyle hotel, and featuring 255 guest rooms, the interior is classic yet contemporary. The hotel's opening brings a new dimension to Beijing tourism. From the hotel, visitors can explore the sights, sounds and flavors of the capital. With its location near the business hub, the Hilton is expected to become the preferred choice of travelers.

2008 Best Professionalism Award

Francois Vanvi, executive assistant manager of Sales & Marketing at the Grand Millennium Beijing, has received a 2008 Best Professionalism Award from *Hotel Professional Executive* trade magazine. Francois was recognized for his outstanding achievements in Beijing's hospitality market. This is his second time to receive the award.

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Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

Old bosses and cocktail parties

By Annie Wei

Once upon a time, all of us were young and worked like migrant workers under mean, stingy and short-sighted bosses.

I was reminded of this the other day when I bumped into Charles Zhang, my first boss in Beijing, at the China Bar of Park Hyatt where I was meeting a friend for a drink.

Zhang raked in money as the marketing manager of a leading financial newspaper's real estate section. This happened from 2001 to 2003, during the country's real estate industry boom.

Zhang never told us his real age because he was concerned people would think he was too young and inexperienced to be a manager. Rumors have it that he has always been ambitious, even as a young man in Shaanxi Province. He worked very hard and secured millions in advertising contracts for a local real estate newspaper. He became acquainted with the city's real estate tycoons and top marketing agencies.

Zhang was not satisfied with his pay and position at the company, so he asked for more. The management refused, so he quit and opened his own publication. Zhang loves socializing and decided to publish a magazine that would target the new rich. He believed that knowing rich and powerful individuals was the foundation to success.

He hired young writers he met at various social functions. One of them was a pretty but jobless 22-year-old woman who was married to the vice president of a big real estate project. He thought the woman's husband would surely spend advertising money on his magazine. Another hire was a 21-year-old male graduate from Tsinghua University. Zhang adored him because the man came from a school that was beyond his reach. And then there was me, who was desperate



CFP Photo

for any job just to survive. I became his secretary and interpreter, since his English wasn't good.

Zhang loved to attend parties at the Capital Club, the American Club, the China Club and the Chang'an Club, where moneyed, foreign-educated Chinese people flocked. These people loved to speak English.

One day, Zhang and I, together with a young Chinese couple fresh from studies in the US, drove to the Commune by the Great Wall for a product launch.

When we arrived, Zhang told the couple in English, "Please get out!"

He was clearly trying to impress our guests with his English, but the man and woman ended up being shocked by his rude choice of words. Trying to remedy the situation, I said in Chinese, "Oh, we're here. Let's get off the car then."

During cocktails at the Commune, Zhang raised a glass to toast the

couple. "You and your wife, bottoms up!" he said in English.

I whispered to Zhang that although "bottoms up" indeed means to finish one's drink, "cheers" was more appropriate at such an occasion.

A year later, I was glad to finally leave Zhang's company, which suffered because of his management style. It eventually became clear to everyone that selling ads for an influential newspaper and building a magazine from scratch required very different skills.

Zhang didn't know how to plan his magazine's contents, he had no experience with circulation and he only had clients from the real estate industry. Last but not least, he paid his employees only one-third of what he promised.

The night I bumped into Zhang at the Hyatt, he was trying to persuade another pretty woman to join his new company.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Me my nine classmates decide to go.

It is rare to use "me," the objective form of the first person, as a subject; you only encounter it in colloquial statements. Another thing is the word's placement within the sentence; when the first person pronoun is used with the second and/or third person, you need to put the first person behind all the other pronouns. Here is an example: "You, Jane and I all do not wish to go." The sentence above should then be rewritten as, "Nine classmates of mine and I decided to go." In the question "Who is there?", the answer should be: "It's I." This is formal English. You may also answer, "It's me." This is used in informal, conversational English.

2. Arab traders return at the same time China is fast developing.

If you wish to link the two sentences in terms of time, and if you use the phrase "at the same time" to indicate simultaneity, you need to add the conjunction "when." The correct sentence will read: "Arab traders return at the same time when China is fast developing." You may also use "as" to express the time when the events occurred: "As China is fast developing, Arab traders return."

3. 15,000 people gathered at the park, including 100 students from the quake-stricken areas.

Grammatically it's all right, but rhetorically, very poor. Since the phrase "including 100 students from the quake-stricken areas" is a detail regarding the "15,000 people," the two facts should be put as close as possible to each other. This is an important principle in English writing. Our new sentence would then become, "15,000 people, including 100 students from the quake-stricken areas, gathered at the park."

Native speaker: Penny Turner

1. Me my nine classmates decide to go.

I agree with Professor Zhu's correction and explanation. The use of personal pronouns is a basic building block of English sentences, yet many people still cannot get this straight. I know native English speakers who answer the phone and say, "This is ..." when the caller turns out to be looking for them. The sentence trails off, making you think they are trying to decide whether to use "he/she" or "him/her." It may sound weird to refer to yourself in the third person, but in this case, the proper response should be, "This is him/her."

2. Arab traders return at the same time China is fast developing.

We need to fix not only the sentence's structure, but also it's tense; the professor's suggested sentences were still a bit hazy. The writer was trying to link Event A and Event B in terms of time, and these events clearly already happened. The sentence above can be rewritten in various ways: "Arab traders returned at the time when China was fast developing," "Arab traders returned at the same time that China was fast developing," or "China was fast developing when Arab traders returned."

3. 15,000 people gathered at the park, including 100 students from the quake-stricken areas.

Yes, this sentence demonstrates the wisdom of putting side-by-side related information, or the modifier to which it modifies. In the sentence, "I met a dozen foreigners at the party, who were only visiting Beijing for a week," the noun clause modifies "a dozen foreigners," so it is better to put them closer together. "At the party, I met a dozen foreigners who were only visiting Beijing for a week" should do the trick.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.



It is ancient to pack photo

By Tiffany Tan

The first photographic image wasn't produced until the 19th century, so preoccupation with photographs definitely was not something "ancient."

The translation of the word *zhuang* is the reason we ended up with this sign: as a verb, the word means "to pretend" or "to act"; as a noun, it means "costume, dress or clothing." The

sign's creator ended up choosing the wrong word form in English.

As the photo of the sweetly smiling woman in imperial dress shows, you can have your picture taken in this store, wearing an ancient costume. "Ancient costume photographs" is what the actual says, but you can rewrite it as, "Pose in ancient costume" or "Photos in ancient costume."



Movie of the week

This movie, starring Kevin Bacon, is a respectful tribute to US servicemen and women who have fallen in combat in Iraq. Bacon gives a restrained, compelling performance in his meticulous handling of a soldier's remains. It is great to see him back on the screen, especially in this quiet movie with a remarkably heavy environment.

This movie is not about political messages and race relations: it is about respecting the dead. If anything, it can be faulted for trying almost too hard to be a tear jerker. Chinese viewers will find that this mainstream movie from the opposite side of the globe mirrors the spirit of domestic productions.

Synopsis

Taking Chance is based on the experience of Lt. Col. Michael Strobl, who volunteers to escort home the remains of a young marine, Chance Phelps, who was killed in Iraq. During his journey, Strobl gains a greater appreciation than ever before of the sacrifices made in war.

Scene 1

(Michael Strobl reports on the request from Iraq for additional troops.)

Michael Strobl (S): Once we're quartered, we'll give you a rundown (1) on battalion and squadron-level readiness and today's brief will focus on first marine division. The slide indicates that personnel readiness 1st MarDiv is not as bad as they are reporting.

However, sir, as you are aware, last Friday they made a request for 300 additional augments. Given the insurgency in Al-Anbar and the recent spike (2) in casualties, they made this

request. Sir, it's my recommendation to just send enough augments to cover their casualties of last month.

Military officer: How many of you have been in Iraq since 9/11 ... I know you've spent a lot of time on these reports, but I cannot have a bunch of analysts contradict the commanders on the ground (3).

Scene 2

(Strobl starts his journey. He talks with Rich, the driver on the road from the base to the airport.)

Rich (R): Feeling okay?

S: Yeah yeah. I'm good.

R: We're almost there.

S: Do you always do these routes?

R: I just started six months ago. Nobody in my family's in the military and none of my friends. But I thought about joining up (4). Yeah, but I was too chickenshit

had to sign something because I was underage.

R: Yeah, that's young.

S: I know, but I couldn't bear the thought of waiting another year. All I wanted was to be a marine and I joined up. You graduate from boot camp (7), you think you're on top and you travel and you see these things you never thought you'd see. It's hard, of course, but ... it's fun.

R: It's fun?

S: Yeah. I'm serious.

R: I've got to be honest. No offense, but ... I don't really get what we're doing over there. But ... last summer these two guys from my high school went, and one of them ended up hurt really bad. And last time I heard, he was at something Reed hospital.

S: Walter Reed.

R: Yeah. The other one, he didn't make it back. I just wanted to do something ... Will you do me a favor?



(5). Sorry. I mean too chicken.

S: You can say shit.

R: And plus the whole haircut thing. I'm in a band and ... you know, you got to keep it long to keep the ladies happy. What about you? What's your deal (6)?

S: My deal? My deal is complicated.

R: When did you join up?

S: When I was 17. My parents

S: Sure.

R: Let the family know we're thinking of them.

S: Will do. You're a good man, Rich.

R: Thanks.

S: Be safe.

Scene 3

(In a club in Chance's hometown, Strobl talks with Sergeant

Michael Arenz, who was with Chance when he died.)

Sergeant Michael Arenz (A):

It always made me feel safe seeing those shoes there. In Iraq, Chance was just a big old pair of size 12 shoes looking out for us. Anyhow, we were driving along. Suddenly there's this huge boom. Out of nowhere, an IED had gone off in the front of the convoy, so ... I jump out, check on the rest of the vehicles, and ... It was madness.

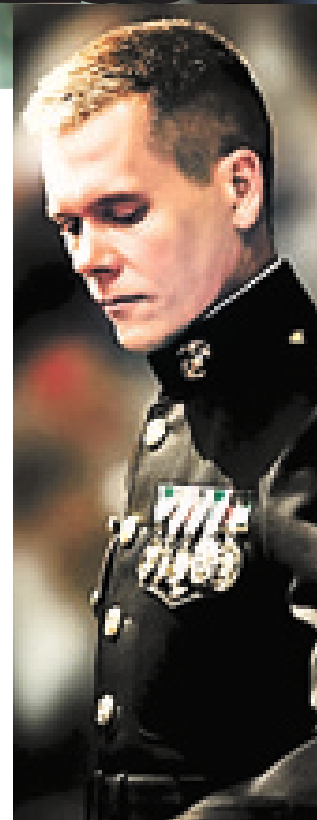
I could hear behind me Chance's 240 opening up, just unleashing an ungodly amount of fire on the mujahideen. So I thought, "OK, that part of the convoy's OK." He attracted all the fire to himself so that the rest of us could take cover, get organized and get out. So after I checked on the first two vehicles, I run back towards our vehicle, and ... I could see Chance was shooting all over the place.

I yelled at him. I was like, "Jesus, Phelps, don't shoot the birds, man." I thought he was trying to scare them or something. His finger was still on the trigger, shooting, but his head was slumped over (8). I got a little bit closer, I could see some blood coming down of his head. Inside the vehicle, Doc checked his vitals, and ... he was gone.

Six of us ... held him in our hands all the way back to the base. I just keep running (9) it, you know, in my mind, like, "What could I have done better? What could I have done different?" What do you say to somebody's mom when they tell you, "It's not your fault. You couldn't have done anything." I owed it to him to save him. I'm the one who trained him. I just can't believe that I'm here and he's not.

S: I'm glad you're here, Sergeant.

A: Thank you, sir.



Vocabulary

1. **rundown:** a point-by-point summary

2. **spike:** a synonym for "sharp rise"

3. **on the ground:** the place where action is happening, here it means on the front line

4. **join up:** here it means to become a member of a military organization

5. **chickenshit:** slang which means cowardly or afraid

6. **What's your deal:** an inquiry into one's past

7. **boot camp:** training camp for military recruits

8. **slump over:** to collapse and fall over forward in a sitting position

9. **run something through one's mind:** to reconsider or think about something

(By Wang Yu)